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Will India make it a hat-trick of wins?

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NEARBY

Only 1.02L BPL cards 'modified', says Minister

BENGALURU
Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Thursday said that only 1.02 lakh BPL cards held by government employees and taxpayers had been "modified" as APL cards. » Page 10

KMF enters Delhi-NCR region

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday launched the KMF Nandini brand milk products for the Delhi-NCR market. The rates of the products have been fixed marginally lower than that of competitors in the national capital. » Page 10

METROPLUS » PAGES 8 & 9

Gautam Adani indicted in U.S. over charges of bribery, securities fraud

- He and associates allegedly promised over $250 million in bribes to Indian officials
- Regulator says they defrauded U.S. investors, global financial institutions
- Shares of Adani firms lose $27 billion in market value; Group denies allegations

G. Sampath
NEW DELHI

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued a five-count criminal indictment of Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, and several of his business associates.

The charges include promising more than $250 million in bribes to Indian government officials to secure solar energy contracts, conspiracies to commit securities and wire fraud, and orchestrating "a multi-billion dollar scheme" to defraud U.S. investors and global financial institutions by giving "false and misleading statements".

The indictment was unsealed by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York late on November 20.

In a parallel move, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has also charged Mr. Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani (the former's nephew and head of Adani Green Energy), along with Cyril Cabanes, a top executive of Azure Power Global Ltd. (a New Delhi-headquartered renewable energy company that used to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange), with a massive bribery scheme involving Adani Green and Azure Power.

In the U.S., it is illegal to make payments to foreign government officials in a bid to obtain or retain business. Raising money by misleading investors about key corporate governance decisions and hiding the authorisation of bribery practices in company reports are also treated as offences.

Under a cloud: The Adani Group said it would seek all possible legal measures against the indictment. VIJAY SONEJI

While the DOJ indictment constitutes a criminal case, the SEC's is a civil complaint, and if proved, could result in a "permanent injunction, a civil penalty, and an officer and director bar".

The SEC's complaints were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Withdraws bond issue

Reacting to the news of the indictment, Adani Green Energy Ltd. said on Thursday it was withdrawing a proposed $600-million bond issue.

Shares of Adani Group companies lost about $27 billion in market value in the domestic markets, led by an over 23% decline in its flagship, Adani Enterprises Ltd. This was the steepest drop in its share value since February 2023, when it was hit by allegations of misdemeanour and corporate malfeasance levelled by U.S.-based Hindenberg Research.

The Adani Group denied the allegations of the U.S. Department of Justice and the SEC, terming them "baseless".

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FULL COVERAGE
» PAGES 19 & 20

'A.P. CM, officials were paid bribe of ₹1,750 crore'

AMARAVATI
The Adani Group paid ₹1,750 crore in bribes to a former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and some officials for a power purchase agreement, says the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. » PAGE 19

No links with Adani companies, says T.N. Minister

KARUR
Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister V. Senthilbalaji on Thursday said there was no commercial link between the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) and the Adani Group companies in any manner. » PAGE 19

Consensus on new climate finance goal still elusive

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A day before this round of UN climate talks are scheduled to end in Baku, developed and developing nations are far from agreeing on a number – still denoted as 'x' in the draft text – that will define the world's new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance.

The NCQG refers to money that will be given by developed countries to developing nations to help them transition away from fossil fuels and curb greenhouse gas emissions. Developing nations say this would cost "trillions of dollars". To this end, developed countries say they have transferred $115 billion in 2021-22 – though developing nations say the target has not been met.

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Brainstorming on AI

A humanoid on stage at the *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 in Chennai on Thursday. From left are L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group; Kumar Jayant, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu; Suresh Raman, Convener, CII TN Information and Communication Technology Panel and vice-president and Regional Head, Tata Consultancy Services; and Santhosh T.G., Secretary, CIO Association.
AKHILA EASWARAN (REPORTS ON PAGES 14 & 15)

Delayed arrival of *avarekai* to market drives up prices

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Vasanna, a farmer from Magadi town near Bengaluru, has been in the *avarekai* (hyacinth beans) business for 43 years. Besides growing and selling the bean, he also processes it into dal, known as *avarebele*. "In 43 years, I had never seen the kind of prices we saw a couple of weeks ago for *avarekai* and *avarebele*. A kg of *avarebele* was selling at ₹700 while *avarekai* was sold at ₹130 - ₹150 a kg. These are the steepest prices I have ever seen," Mr. Vasanna said.

Avarekai is being sold at about ₹70-₹85 a kg, while the peeled beans are selling for ₹100-₹120 a kg in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Dropping of flowers

After two bad years due to unpredictable weather patterns, this year, the conditions look better for *avarekai*. However, the delayed arrival of the bean to the market has driven the prices up. Currently, the selling price of *avarekai* in Bengaluru is around ₹70-₹85 a kg, while peeled beans are selling for ₹100-₹120 a kg. The arrival of *avarekai* to the market is expected to increase by the end of November or early December. "The rain earlier this month led to the dropping of *avare* flowers. Hence, the harvest has been delayed by around 15 days," Mr. Vasanna said.

Even in Chickballapur, where it is grown extensively, the flowering has been delayed. "We have had good rain this year, unlike previous year's drought. The *avare* crop is definitely better than last year, but not the best. The flowering has just started, and there should be enough supply by December," said Srinivasan, a farmer from Nandi village in Chickballapur district.

Unlike Magadi, where some farmers exclusively cultivate *avare*, in Chickballapur and Kolar, it is cultivated with ragi.

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Karnataka's software exports cross ₹4.11 lakh cr.

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Karnataka's software and services exports crossed ₹4.11 lakh crore during fiscal 2023-24 (March 2024) from ₹3.2 lakh crore a year ago, marking a 27% year-on-year growth, Minister for IT&BT, Priyank Kharge, said here on Thursday quoting Software Technology Parks of India data.

With this, the State's individual share in the country's total software exports had further increased from last year's 42%, he said.

IT exports from Beyond Bengaluru too have grown substantially in FY'24 with tier 2 and tier 3 cities contributing at least ₹10,000 crore, the Minister added.

IT services exports from STPI-registered units for the whole country crossed ₹9 lakh crore in the 2024 financial year.

Later, speaking at the closure of 27th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS), the Minister said that the State's GCC (global capability centres) policy, a first in the country, would trigger quantum growth in GCC ecosystem, bring in 500 additional GCCs, create over 3.5 lakh new jobs and contribute $50 billion to Karnataka's economy by 2029.

The 2024 edition of the tech exposition witnessed the launch of Nipuna in collaborations with IBM, Intel, Microsoft, NVIDIA, BFSI Consortium and Accenture to drive skilling and workforce transformation. Through these MoUs, the State is expected to train 1,00,000 youngsters in a year.

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Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Sri D.K.Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
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♦ Tenant in property
♦ Declared less built-up area of property
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FROM 1ST DEC 2024 YOUR TAX WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE
ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE
Tax Revision Under OTS
• Property Tax Revision : Rs.25,000/-
(Unpaid Since 2019-20)
• Interest : Zero
• Penalty : Rs. 100/-
Tax Revision Payable : Rs. 25,100/-
(Until 30.11.2024)
Tax Revision after OTS
• Property Tax Revision : Rs.25,000/-
(Unpaid Since 2019-20)
• Interest : Rs.13,500/-
• Penalty : Rs.25,000/-
Tax Revision Payable : Rs. 63,500/-
(After 30.11.2024)
DELIVERED AS PROMISED...
Free bus service for women across Karnataka
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Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000
Yuva Nidhi ₹3000 ₹1500
BBMP Helpline
1533

Battle-ready: leader Bumrah will thrive in the skipper's hat

The pace spearhead is known to shine under pressure and the Test series against Australia is expected to be more of the same; he is one of the most lethal weapons in any captain's arsenal and will be a different beast with him calling the shots in Perth

R. Kaushik

AFP

Jasprit Bumrah could so easily have been a professor. He is already a professor, many will say, a professor of fast bowling, if an unconventional one at that. But he could have also gone into teaching and made a fabulous job of it.

You only have to listen to him at a press conference if you entertain any doubts. He speaks slowly, thoughtfully and with tremendous clarity, breaking things down to such levels of simpleness that even the slowest can comfortably keep track. Occasionally, he might give off the impression that he is talking down even if that is not the intention, because Jasprit Bumrah is not cut from that cloth.

On Friday morning at the impressive if intimidating Optus Stadium in Perth, Bumrah will walk out for the toss with Pat Cummins to herald the start of the first five-Test series between India and Australia in Australia since 1991-92. It won't be Bumrah's debut as Test captain - he performed that role in Birmingham in June 2022 when Rohit Sharma was down with Covid - but it will still be a special moment for someone who has come on so much in such a short time in international cricket.

Rarity

Fast-bowler-captains are a rarity in Test cricket, for whatever reason. Maybe they shoulder such a demanding workload that the decision-makers feel they are best left to their own devices, to rest and recuperate physically and mentally between overs instead of having to worry about bowling changes and field placements and stuff like that.

It's not as if there haven't been long-term skippers who have been pace bowlers - the Pakistan trio of Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis headlines a list that includes, among others, Kapil Dev, Ian Botham, Bob Willis, Courtney Walsh, Shaun Pollock, Mashrafe Mortaza and, more recently, Tim Southee - but they haven't been as many as batting-captains, one of the many quirks Test cricket in particular keeps throwing up.

Bumrah's first tilt at Test captaincy ended in a resounding seven-wicket loss with England chasing down more than 375 in the fourth innings with utter impunity. Despite the result, Bumrah professed to enjoying that responsibility. He will need to be on point every inch of the way, starting from Friday, if India are to make a strong start to their campaign in the absence of Rohit and regular No. 3 Shubman Gill, as well as Bumrah's pace-partner-in-crime for many years now, Mohammed Shami.

The (capt) against his name is merely an official affirmation of Bumrah's standing in the Indian cricketing firmament. He has been a leader in his own right almost from the time he made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018, slipping effortlessly not only into the pace spearhead's capacity but also sharing his inherent wisdom and ever-expanding knowledge around, taking over a mentoring role very early in his career and clearly relishing it.

Bedrock of success

The bedrock of his success has been self-belief, a message he has been quick to pass on to a young bunch of quicks who will be his allies over the next seven weeks. Apart from Mohammed Siraj, who made his Test debut on India's last Australia tour in 2020-21, there is a great deal of inexperience in the fast-bowling ranks. Akash Deep has five Test caps, Prasidh Krishna two, and Harshit Rana and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy have yet to make their first appearance.

As such, without Shami, the responsibility on Bumrah to keep delivering the wickets that will keep India in the contest has increased manifold though if there is one thing that's been evident for the last nine years since his India debut, there is nothing Bumrah thrives in more than responsibility.

It's no surprise that batting legends past and present have installed him as the most difficult pacer to negotiate in world cricket currently. Bumrah is unorthodox in so many ways that his unorthodoxy is one of his primary allies.

Much has been said of his braced left knee and his hyperextended right elbow that allows him to release the ball a little later than anyone else, which messes up the batter's perception of length. But Bumrah isn't only about the absence of classicism. He is a class act, any which way you look at it, blessed with the felicity to use the new ball and old with equally devastating impact and having an outstanding cricket brain to boot.

GETTY IMAGES

It's his intelligence, his ability to read and sum up situations rapidly and to set batters up, that has thrust him to the top of the pace bowling pile. With little perceptible change in action, he can make the ball do different things from nearly the same release. His control is exemplary and he seldom has off-days, which is a great luxury for any captain. And when he himself is the captain, well, beware.

One of the dangers of being a bowler-captain is the possibility of either over-bowling or under-bowling oneself, goes conventional wisdom. Bumrah being Bumrah, he has an entirely different take on this issue.

"I can manage myself the best when I'm the captain, because I know when I'm fresh, when I know I have to push myself, and I know when I have to take extra responsibility," he said on Test eve. "There are different challenges, yes, but there are advantages as well and I look at the advantages. I look at the positives more than the negatives."

Without harping too much on the theme, Bumrah knows he is merely filling in for Rohit, who should return from paternity leave next week. But another of the Gujarat quick's great strengths has been his ability to live in the present, to learn from the past but not allow it weigh him down, to leave the baggage of past failures and disappointments behind, and to start from scratch every time he sets foot on the cricket field.

Master

Now on his third Test tour of Australia - it was here too that he made his ODI debut in early 2016 - Bumrah knows the conditions here as well as any overseas fast bowler can be expected to. He is a master at finding, and then hitting, the right lengths on any surface and in Australia, length is the key, especially for those - bowlers and batters - coming from the subcontinent.

Because there is significant bounce, the propensity is to bang the ball in shorter and try and unsettle the batter and while that might look pretty for a while, it certainly doesn't come with the guarantee of success.

For batters coming from tracks with less bounce, the inclination to play deliveries that they could so easily leave on bounce is understandable, which is why the need for the discipline, particularly when the Kookaburra is hard and new, to resist the temptation of flirting with balls in the corridor that could be left alone.

The Kookaburra can be a batter's ally when it gets a little old and soft because it seldom deviates from the seam but Bumrah knows how to make even the most unresponsive cherry do his bidding. He will keep probing away, looking for and then cashing in on the slightest hint of weakness or uncertainty, but what makes him lethal is his immense control even when he is trying something different.

Greatest challenge

This is arguably Bumrah's greatest challenge in Test cricket - even temporarily setting aside the fact that he is the stand-in skipper - against a talented but prone-to-fragility Australian batting line-up. There is no David Warner to take the bowling on up front, Usman Khawaja is more an accumulator rather than a destroyer and debutant opener Nathan McSweeney will inevitably feel the pressure, which means Bumrah will get a little more leeway to settle into his rhythm.

Once he finds his bearings, he is capable of immeasurable damage if there is even the slightest assistance in the air or off the deck. And even if there is nothing in the surface, Bumrah can just do batters in the air. Like an ashen-faced Ollie Pope will testify.

Australia will believe the longer they can see Bumrah off and keep him wicketless, not just in Perth but elsewhere too when Rohit returns, the greater the chances of him succumbing to frustration in an effort to overreach and try too hard.

There is a sense of unfinished business within the Australian ranks; several in this Cummins-led outfit haven't been part of a Border-Gavaskar Trophy winning team even though Australia are the defending champions of both the World Test Championship and the 50-over World Cup. In the past, they have often targeted the head of the snake - the euphemism for the player in the opposition ranks most likely to influence the outcome of the contest - and it won't be any different with Bumrah, which is a great tribute to the 30-year-old, given Australia's unending obsession with Virat Kohli.

How smartly Bumrah responds to those attacks will make for interesting viewing because Bumrah loves the scent of a battle as much as he does making batters look sheepish with toe-crushing yorkers, beautifully disguised slower ones, radar-directed in-duckers and the late away-swinger that rushes in for a romantic tryst with the outside edge.

In a fortnight's time, exactly on the day the pink-ball Test starts in Adelaide (December 6), Bumrah will celebrate his 31st birthday. Now, how wonderful it would be if he could give himself an early birthday present by fusing incisive spells with decisive leadership for an optimal performance at the Optus.

THE GIST

- Bumrah's first tilt at Test captaincy ended in a resounding seven-wicket loss with England chasing down more than 375 in the fourth innings. Despite the result, Bumrah professed to enjoying that responsibility
- The pacer has been a leader in his own right almost from the time he made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018
- One of the dangers of being a bowler-captain is the possibility of either over-bowling or under-bowling oneself, goes conventional wisdom
- Bumrah is unorthodox in so many ways that his unorthodoxy is one of his primary allies

Researchers use computer vision for early ASD detection

Through the project, the researchers aim to detect Autism Spectrum Disorder automatically in children in the age group of 18 to 42 months by analysing their behaviour

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The research is currently using records of 100 children diagnosed with ASD and 40 children without ASD as a comparative group. GETTY IMAGES

The researchers from the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB), along with the Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence in Autism and Developmental Disorders, St. John's Hospital, are currently running a study that aims to help in the early detection of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) via computer vision. The study was showcased at the Bengaluru Tech Summit held between November 19-21.

Through the project, the researchers aim to detect ASD automatically in children in the age group of 18 to 42 months by analysing their behaviour. "Early detection of ASD is more challenging. Some key aspects are different in the Indian context when compared to similar work done in the Western world. That is why we designed a new play protocol which is specifically developed for the Indian context," said Dinesh Babu Jayagopi, HoD, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, IIITB.

The protocol has both structured and unstructured activities. While the children are provided with explicit instruction about the tasks they should perform in structured activities, they are free to engage in play or explore independently without any specific directions in unstructured activities.

The activities are performed in a room fitted with cameras, and the interactions between the child, parent and examiner (doctor) are recorded.

The videos are then analysed to identify and recognise 26 behaviours of interest across all three behavioural domains (unlike previous research studies which had considered single domain) - facial expression-based, social communication-based - and play-based - with the help of deep learning techniques.

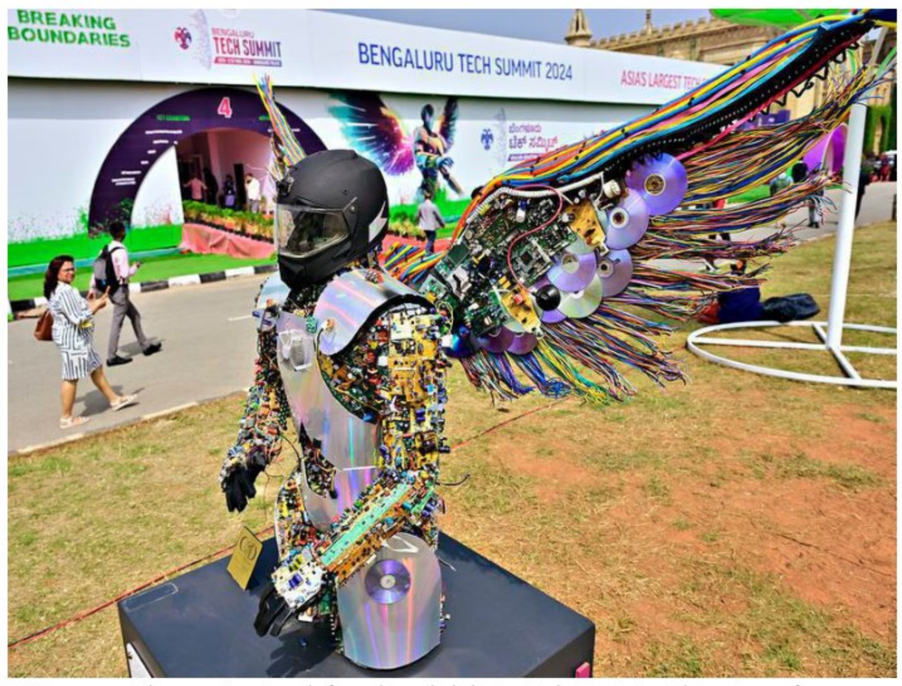
"The computer will analyse if there are any repeated activities if the children make eye contact and such other patterns. Instead of any manual intervention, computer vision will be used. We are building models for it, and we are also ensuring that the privacy of the children is protected," said Prof. Babu.

These behavioural markers are used to enhance diagnostic accuracy and create a dataset that will help to infer if a child is autistic or not systematically. The research is currently using records of 100 children diagnosed with ASD and 40 children without ASD as a comparative group. Around 50 - 100 children have been subjected to this study, which has been in the works for the last couple of years.

The system has achieved ASD prediction accuracy averaging 82%, according to the researchers. However, as the studies have just been conducted in limited settings so far, it has to be conducted outside on a larger scale to be validated. "We want to make the system as simple as possible that even in smaller towns, the tests can be run by ASHA workers," Prof. Babu said.

Prof. Babu has been working with a post doctoral researcher, a Ph.D researcher and Shyam Rajagopalan from Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB) on this study which is funded by Machine INtelligence and RObotics (MINRO) Center at IIITB.

'Bengaluru among six cities suitable for start-up headquarters'



Visitors go past the e-waste art made from discarded electronic devices into striking pieces of sustainable art, at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Start-ups which are looking at quantum growth of their businesses should choose only six cities in the world, including Bengaluru, New York, San Francisco, London, Singapore, and Tel Aviv, as their global headquarters, said Nuseir Yassin, an Israeli-Palestinian vlogger, known as Nas Daily on various social media channels.

Mr. Yassin who has 30 billion views in 14 languages for his one-minute videos was speaking at the concluding day of Bengaluru Tech Summit here on Thursday.

He said, based on his three-year experience in tech entrepreneurship, he could identify five key hacks that would help startups in a big way and those were talent, location, marketing, momentum and content. "For start-ups to be successful they have to find their talent before the talent reach the US, once the talent reaches the U.S., it gets way too expensive for small entrepreneurs to afford," he said.

There was so much talent roaming around in India, especially, density of AI talent was very high in the country, expertise, he observed.

On location, he said, it was important for startup to build in one place and sell in another. "Building in Bengaluru or Tel Aviv and selling in the U.S. gives a 10X leverage to start-ups, and that's smart," Mr. Yassin said. Speaking on the importance of momentum hack, he said, "You can't control the wave, but you can ride the wave. Today, AI and crypto are clear waves."

AI, chips are twin engines of India's development

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's growth trajectory is increasingly powered by advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductor chips, both of which complement each other, said Shankar Krishnamoorthy, Technical Head of Synopsys, during his keynote address at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024 here on Thursday.

Speaking at a session on "AI for Chips; Chips for AI," Mr. Krishnamoorthy emphasised the immense potential these technologies hold for India's development.

He highlighted their critical role in initiatives like the Smart Cities Mission and the "Viksit Bharat" projects.

However, he cautioned that as these technologies evolve, ensuring accessibility and affordability would pose significant challenges.

Adding to the discussion, Hasan Aijaz, Regional Industry Business Development Manager at Nvidia, pointed out that semiconductor chips have become the cornerstone of data centers.

''Our goal is to help make India a global powerhouse in AI and semiconductors," he stated.

Bike rider killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 26-year-old motorcycle rider was killed in an accident on R.R. Nagar main road in the early hours of Thursday.

The deceased, identified as Prakhyath Nagaraju, was an employee of a private airline company and was returning home in the wee hours of Thursday when he lost control and crashed into a tree by the roadside.

According to the police, the rider was speeding and not wearing a helmet. Due to the impact, the bike was damaged, and Prakhyath sustained multiple injuries. Passers-by rushed to his help and shifted him to a nearby hospital, but the doctors declared him "brought dead".

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, NOV. 22		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	00:00	SET 12:10
SATURDAY, NOV. 23		
RISE	06:22	SET 17:50
RISE	00:01	SET 12:48
SUNDAY, NOV. 24		
RISE	06:22	SET 17:50
RISE	00:48	SET 13:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	19
Bengaluru	27	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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One-year-old undergoes heart transplant in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The rarity of donor hearts, especially for infants, combined with the complexities of congenital heart disease, makes it an incredibly delicate process, say doctors. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A one-year-old infant got a new lease of life following a heart transplant in a private hospital in the city.

The baby, suffering from end-stage heart failure due to Restrictive Cardiomyopathy (RCM), received a life-saving heart transplant at Narayana Health City in Bengaluru. Doctors who performed the transplant claimed that this was the nation's youngest heart transplant.

At ten months, the baby's condition rapidly deteriorated, leading to severe jaundice, weight loss, abdominal fluid accumulation (ascites) and feeding difficulties. On evaluation, Shashiraj, Clinical Lead for Paediatric Heart Failure and Transplant at the hospital, concluded that a heart transplant was the only viable option.

Compatible donor

Amidst the challenges, a ray of hope emerged. Within 72 hours, a compatible donor heart became available from a 2.5-year-old child who tragically lost her life to an irreversible neurological condition. This selfless gift of life became the beacon of hope for this baby and his parents with a chance of survival.

On August 18, 2024, a team of doctors at the hospital comprising Sudesh Prabhu, Senior Consultant of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery, T Kumaran, Senior Consultant of Cardiac Surgery and Transplant, and Sreedhar Joshi, Senior Consultant of Anaesthesiology, successfully performed the heart transplant along with intensivists Riyan Shetty, Rajesh Hegde, and Ganesh Sambandamoorthy.

Recovery period

Following a two-month recovery period, the baby was discharged in a stable condition, exhibiting remarkable progress with increased activity, healthy appetite and steady weight gain. "Heart failure in children is particularly challenging. The rarity of donor hearts, especially for infants, combined with the complexities of congenital heart disease, makes it an incredibly delicate process. This infant's condition was critical, and we knew time was running out. This case demonstrates the power of expert teamwork and the life-saving potential of heart transplantation. We hope this case raises awareness about heart failure and the importance of organ donation," explained Dr Shashiraj.

U.S. Consul General unveils IPC at Christ

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The U.S. Consul General in Chennai, Chris Hodges, launched the Indo-Pacific Curriculum (IPC) at Christ (Deemed to be University), here on Thursday.

The Indo-Pacific Circle, Centre for East Asian Studies (CEAS), Christ University, and the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) jointly developed the curriculum, which was funded by a grant from the U.S. Consulate General Chennai.

For free

The curriculum is available free of charge on the Indo-Pacific Circle website.

It offers college and university students, researchers, and the public a resource to explore and analyse the geopolitical, social, and environmental dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region.

For details, visit https://www.ipcircle.org/online-courses

Addressing the gathering at the launch, Mr. Hodges said, "The Indo-Pacific Curriculum inspires participants to ask critical questions, promote inclusive engagement, and work toward a united future."

The IPC includes a series of online recorded lectures presented by 18 scholars from India and the Indo-Pacific region, covering topics such as Diversity of the Indo-Pacific, Trade, Geo-Economics, Demographics and Challenges, Climate Change and Maritime Security, and Migration among others.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Adigas Yatra completes its 3 decades, announces 9% special discount on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava

On completing its remarkable journey of three decades in the Tourism Industry, Adigas Yatra announces a special discount of 9 % on all varieties of Tours. The founder, MD, Mr. K Nagaraj Adiga, said that this special offer is for Karnataka Rajyotsava and will be for a limited period. Adigas offers its most popular International tours with World Class Hotels, Professional Drivers, Indian food, all entry tickets to the must visit monuments and places, English Speaking guides with exclusive knowledge about the history and importance of the places. Throughout 2024 their Europe, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Dubai, Srilanka, Nepal bagged the title of MOST DESIRABLE DESTINATION. The founder, Mr. Adiga says " In Adigas Yatra, tourists never feel "homesick" as their co-travellers are from Karnataka only. In other words, Adigas is the travel for the Kannadigas, by a Kannadiga. The language, tradition, culture, and food habits are common among the tourists and it makes their journey memorable one. This year they have introduced Domestic Fixed Departures to major destinations which is a new attraction among tourists. Earlier a few destinations are under this category. Now the most demanding destinations of Kashi, Chardham, Temples of Gujarath, Forts of Rajasthan, Jungle and Palaces of Madhya Pradesh, Valleys of Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal, Sikkim, National parks, are included. 4 star category accommodations, Luxurious coach or Vehicles to travel, Taste of Local Cuisines, Planned exclusive itinerary, 24/7 customer support, Dedicated and experienced staff make your tour a memorable one. Domestic group tours as always have its own attractions with Experienced Tour Managers, Vegetarian food prepared and served on the spot by the cooking staff, luxurious A/c Coaches, and A/C accommodations are included in the tours to every state of India. Their wide range of Customized Tours provides you the world-class facility of star hotels, luxury and comfortable vehicles to travel, expert guidance, and tailor-made itinerary makes your travel Hassle free. The language, tradition, culture, and food habits are common among the tourists which makes their journey memorable one. For more details about the tours and services tourists please visit the website: www.adigasyatra.com

BEML Wins 246.78 Crore Order for 48 BH60M Rear Dump Trucks from Central Coalfields Limited

BEML Limited, a leading Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, has secured a substantial order worth 246.78 crore from Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). The order entails the supply of 48 state-of-the-art BH60M Rear Dump Trucks, along with spares and consumables for 1+4 years and comprehensive after-sales service support. features make the BH60M an ideal solution for efficient and safe overburden transportation in mining operations. The truck adheres to ISO standards and the latest safety requirements specified in DGMS circulars of October 2018 and February 2020. The features make the BH60M an ideal solution for efficient and safe overburden transportation in mining operations. The truck adheres to ISO standards and the latest safety requirements specified in DGMS circulars of October 2018 and February 2020. Once the equipment passes the final inspection, deliveries will commence promptly, maintaining the highest standards of quality and timelines. Commenting on the development, Shri Shantanu Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of BEML Ltd, said, "This order is a testament to our enduring partnership with Central Coalfields Limited and highlights BEML s unwavering commitment to delivering innovative, reliable, and high-performance mining solutions. We take immense pride in being a trusted partner to the mining sector, providing cutting-edge equipment that meets the evolving demands of the industry. This milestone further strengthens our resolve to contribute to India's growth by supporting critical sectors like mining with sustainable and advanced technologies, aligning with the nation s vision of self-reliance and global leadership in industrial innovation." With this order, BEML further strengthens its position as a trusted partner in the mining and infrastructure sectors, reaffirming its dedication to driving innovation, excellence, and nation-building.

3rd Edition of Bengaluru Gold Festival organised by Jewellers Association Bengaluru (JAB) concludes on a highly successful note.

Digital draws for 1 Kilo gold bumper first prize along with 600 JAB grams of gold and 15 kilos of silver prizes were picked up at the glittering event held on 17th November 2024 at Hotel Four seasons, Bengaluru. The 45 days Bengaluru Gold Festival (BGF) organized by JAB concluded on highly successful note and with over 100 leading jewellers participated in this one-of-a-kind jewellery promotion event. There were close to 3 kilos of gold and 100 kilos of silver prizes allocated during this 45 day festival including weekly lucky draw and assured prizes. Popular Kannada Actress and Brand Ambassador of Bengaluru Gold Festival Rachita Ram was the chief guest for the bumper draw event and Dr TA Sharavana, MLC and Dy Floor Leader JDS, GOK was the guest of honour. Dr Chetan Kumar Mehta, President-JAB and Suresh Kumar Ganna, Chairman, BGF were also present during this event. Speaking on this occasion Dr Chetan Kumar Mehta, President, JAB said, BGF 3 has received overwhelming response from the participants and consumers. In-spite of high gold prices we have received a huge success. We thank all our participants and sponsors for the valuable support. Suresh Kumar Ganna, Chairman, BGF said, The third edition of Bengaluru Gold Festival was very well organised and appreciated by one and all. We had added lot of new features and increased the total prizes in this edition. All our retailer who participated were very happy and have benefited from this promotion. The event was organised by JAB; Co-Sponsored by Jewels of India; Official Logistic Partner Sequel; Technology Partner Saleswizz; and Trade Media Partner The Art of Jewellery Magazine.

BBMP begins demolition of illegal building at Mahadevapura

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP has initiated the demolition of an unauthorised building in the White Rose Layout, in the Mahadevapura zone, constructed without proper approval for the building plan. Acting on the instructions of Zonal Commissioner Ramesh, the operation started on Thursday at Site No. 23A, White Rose Layout, Pattandur Agrahara. The building, owned by Tulasidevi, was constructed on a 30x80 site without obtaining the necessary approvals.

The structure includes a ground floor and four additional stories, according to a release issued by the BBMP.

Despite prior notices being issued to the owner, construction work continued unabated. Consequently, officials conducted an on-site inspection and began the demolition process with the assistance of one JCB machine and a team of 10 staff members.

The authorities have stated that once the operation is complete, the cost of the demolition will be recovered from the building owner.

A primer on how to survive the declining air quality in India

The Centre in its recent order to States, Union Territories warned that air pollution is a significant contributor to acute health conditions. It has asked them to initiate measures to ensure preparedness in view of the deteriorating air quality across northern India with the onset of winters and its adverse impact on people's health

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The combination of festive activities and the onset of winter have further deteriorated the Air Quality Index (AQI) in certain States and Union Territories across India forcing the Union Health Ministry to issue an advisory directing State health departments and healthcare facilities to enhance their preparedness to safeguard the health of public against the ill effects of rising air pollution levels.

Recently, the Ministry has said that people should limit outdoor activities including early morning/late evening sports and walks (particularly the elderly and vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, children, and those working outdoors like traffic police officers).

The Central government in its recent order to State and Union Territories warned that air pollution is a significant contributor to acute health conditions and exacerbates the progression of related chronic diseases. It has asked them to initiate measures to ensure preparedness in view of the deteriorating air quality across northern India, with the onset of winters, and its adverse impact on people's health.

The letter from the Centre has directed that public awareness campaigns through mass media be pressed into action and has also called for strengthening the healthcare workforce and increasing participation in sentinel surveillance for air pollution-related diseases.

Weather experts have noted that air quality in the National Capital is currently in the 'very poor' category with hospitals registering a rise in the number of patients coming in with adverse respiratory symptoms.

In his letter, Director General of Health Services Atul Goel said that the adverse effects of air pollution are "particularly severe" for vulnerable groups. Stating that chronic illnesses, attributed to prolonged exposure to air pollution, often lead to an increase in premature mortality, the letter said that there is a need to ensure "enhanced preparedness."

Alarming rise in pollution

The Central government has sought to discourage stubble and waste burning, promoting use of public transportation, limiting reliance on diesel-based generators etc. Also, individuals have been advised to minimise their exposure to polluted air by monitoring air quality indices through government mobile applications before venturing outdoors.

Clearing the air: An anti-smog gun spraying water on Kartavya Path. After staying in the 'severe plus' category for several days, the overall air quality of Delhi improved slightly to the 'very poor' level on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Capital and its nearby areas along with other regions of the country have been witnessing alarming rise in pollution levels with the Delhi-NCR AQI hovering around 300-400 range and has even gone up to over 500.

Experts said, in the month of October and on the onset of winter, they have been witnessing nearly 40% spike in the cases of cardio and respiratory problems including asthma, triggered by high levels of pollution. The World Heart Federation's World Heart Report 2024, indicated alarming statistics on the relationship between air pollution and cardiovascular disease (CVD) globally. In India, a country already burdened with a high prevalence of CVDs, the impact of environmental factors, particularly air pollution, poses a significant public health challenge.

Experts are now calling for urgent attention and action to address these environmental triggers of CVDs. Indian cardiologists and public health professionals emphasise that without addressing pollution, tackling cardiovascular health challenges will remain an uphill battle.

Emphasising the clinical mechanisms through which pollution impacts heart health Faraz Ahmed Farooqui, consultant-Cardiology, PSRI Hospital, aid that long-term exposure to air pollution leads to endothelial dysfunction and oxidative stress, both of which are critical precursors to cardiovascular diseases.

Centre has sought to discourage stubble and waste burning, promoting use of public transportation, limiting reliance on diesel-based generators

"In India, the incidence of conditions such as coronary artery disease, stroke, and heart failure has seen a marked increase in polluted areas. These pollutants not only increase blood pressure but also trigger inflammatory responses in the blood vessels, accelerating atherosclerosis, which further heightens the risk of heart attacks and strokes," he said.

The World Heart Report also highlights how particulate matter from agricultural practices, particularly residue burning in North India, significantly impacts air quality. The plumes from burning crop stubble contribute to spikes in particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), aggravating the cardiovascular health of millions.

Praveen Gupta, principal director & chief of Neurology, Fortis Hospital, added that pollution causes a significant impact on human health. "It is a leading risk factor for stroke, cognitive impairment, and dementia. Pollution has a negative influence on mental health, producing loss of focus, irritation, and brain fog. There is mounting evidence that exposure to air pollution increases the risk of cognitive decline and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's," he said.

The primary causes of this heightened risk include traffic exhaust fumes, home wood burning, and elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide, which can be ascribed to industrial emissions, gardening equipment, power plants, and construction and exhaust fumes.

Experts are now advocating for steps to decrease air pollution in their communities, such as utilising public transportation wherever feasible, reducing the use of wood and coal in the house, repairing cars on a regular basis, and inspecting tires often.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), notes that air pollution can cause a variety of health issues including cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute respiratory infections, and asthma, cancer (lung cancer), preterm and low-birthweight, cognitive and neurological impairment.

Air pollution is a major environmental health problem that affects people of all income levels. In 2019, the WHO estimated that 4.2 million people died prematurely due to outdoor air pollution. Low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately affected by air pollution, with 89% of premature deaths occurring in these nations. Air pollution is the second leading cause of non-communicable diseases globally.
(bindu.p@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

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- Indian cardiologists and public health professionals emphasise that without addressing pollution, tackling cardiovascular health challenges will remain an uphill battle
- The World Heart Report highlights how particulate matter from agricultural practices, particularly residue burning in North India, significantly impacts air quality
- In 2019, the WHO estimated that 4.2 million people died prematurely due to outdoor air pollution

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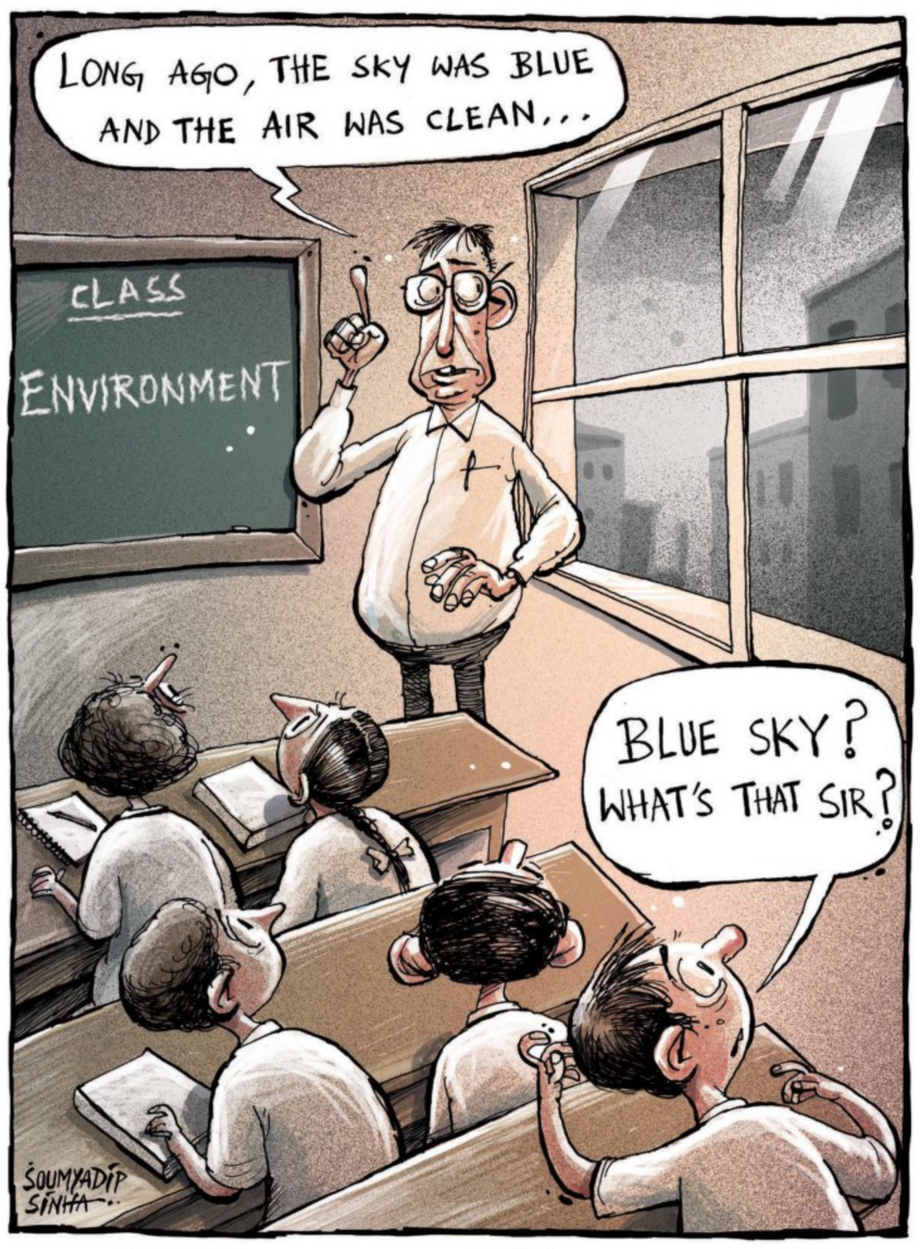

During AMR week, lessons in vaccination

Subramanian Swaminathan

Immunisation has been one of the biggest success stories in public health globally, second only to sanitation and water safety. Vaccination has led to the eradication of small pox and polio in India, which are no longer the scourges they used to be. However, our vaccination initiatives in the country still leave many opportunities underutilised, leading to an actual cost to be paid in the future. While India's success in recovering its childhood vaccination rates post pandemic is laudable, unfortunately, we do not have accurate data on the scenario with some vaccines – for instance, the vaccine against pneumococcal pneumonia (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine- PCV) and the Haemophilus influenzae vaccine (Hib). These two vaccines are fairly recent additions to the government's immunisation programme, and were designed for rapid upscale when COVID-19 hit. Data on these burden from these two pathogens is not currently available, but the last estimate from 2015 had placed it at 1.84 million cases and 84,000 deaths. The significance of this lies in the fact that these two pathogens – Streptococcus pneumoniae and Haemophilus influenzae – are a leading cause of upper and lower respiratory infections in all decades of life, and are an important concern for

Studies indicate that unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children are vulnerable to preventable illnesses.

children under five. They are amongst the commonest causes of ear infections (otitis media), lung infections (pneumonia) and brain infections (meningitis). The introduction of the PCV as a childhood vaccine has been achieved in most developed countries across the globe, as well as in 60 of the 73 Gavi vaccine alliance eligible countries. This has resulted in a steep fall in pneumonia cases in children, as well as deaths.

A larger problem

Whilst the direct, short-term effects are often reported, what is generally not recognised is that non-vaccination fuels a larger problem that is of global concern.

Studies indicate that unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children are vulnerable to preventable illnesses and have to seek medical care, as well as, crucially, often the unnecessary abuse of antibiotics, fuelling the epidemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR week is recognised from November 18-24.

'One Health' approach

South and Southeast Asia account for 6.5% of global antibiotic usage, including 54.9% of the World Health Organization Watch classified antibiotics. This has set off alarm bells, and compounded by the problem of extensively drug-resistant infections set against a practically dry drug development pipeline, is a nightmare in the making. Many interventions are being designed to address this as part of the 'One Health' approach, but the value of vaccination in reducing antibiotic use has not been given enough attention.

A recent paper in *The Lancet* Regional Health South Asia by Chirag Kumar and his colleagues has assessed the possible benefits of increasing coverage of both these vaccines. Their assessment was of increasing vaccine coverage across India, and the anticipated benefits in terms of reduction of infection rates from the two pathogens mentioned above, and the potential reduction in antibiotic use fuelled by these illnesses.

Firstly, there is an expectation of a significant reduction in the disease burden, and the benefit, the paper found, would be striking in vulnerable States including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. There is also an anticipated fall in the disease burden and mortality in all groups, irrespective of economic background. If the population were subdivided by wealth, the benefit would be greatest – including in mortality reduction – in those most economically disadvantaged. In addition, the estimate is of a reduction of 67,000 deaths a year.

Secondly, on the issue of antibiotic abuse, the model strongly indicates a meaningful reduction in antibiotic consumption in children, and this fall would be most pronounced in the economically advantaged group due to cost reasons. However, this reduction in usage could lead to more equitable usage of antibiotics, and reduction in the burden amongst those most economically disadvantaged.
(Dr. Subramanian Swaminathan is Director- Infectious Diseases and Infection Control, GHC, Chennai and Bengaluru and Vice President, Clinical Infectious Diseases Society of India. drsubramanians@gmail.com.)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Pak. national, acquitted of terror charges, awaits deportation

Mohammed Fahad has spent nearly 17 years in the city's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Mohammed Fahad, a Pakistani national, who had spent nearly 17 years in the city's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, is waiting for deportation clearance.

The High Court of Karnataka recently acquitted him of terror charges, ordering him to be deported on September 25, but he has been held at the foreigners detention centre in Nelamangala on the outskirts of the city for over 50 days now.

Advocate S. Balan said that Mr. Fahad, who had already suffered enough after being framed in a terror case, is now being held captive again, calling it unfair.

Mohammed Fahad

Mohammed Fahad was born to an Indian father and Pakistani mother.

His father, hailing from Kasaragod in Kerala, went to Pakistan in the 1970s and married a local woman there.

Fahad came to India in 2006 in search of his relatives in Kasaragod and decided to stay back after falling in love with a woman. He was 24 years old then.

The next year, he was arrested by Mysuru Police for allegedly trying to forge documents to claim he was a local. He was convicted and served eight years of imprisonment in the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

Terror conspiracy

In 2012, he was booked under unlawful activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and Arms Act, 1959, in connection with a terror conspiracy case. In the prison, Fahad and the 2005 IISc attack case accused, Afsar Pasha, were booked for radicalising Syed Abdul Rehman, a rowdy sheeter.

While Pasha and Rehman were convicted in the case, Fahad was acquitted.

The court acquitted him on September 25, saying 'accused number two, Mohammed Fahad, shall be deported to Pakistan after his release from the jail.' It had been 50 days since he was aquitted in the case, but he was still waiting to be deported.

Advocate Balan demanded that his deportation be sped up. "Now he is a free man. He has already lost 17 years of his life. He was 24 when he came to India, and now he is 42. Spending every day in custody at the detention centre is injustice," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Santhosh Babu, Director, Foreigners Regional Registration Office, Bengaluru, said, "We have written to the authorities concerned and the Pakistan High Commission to initiate the process." When asked about when he would be deported, he said "it depends on the authorities".

Three with forged passports arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alert immigration officials at Kempegowda International Airport on Tuesday (November 19) caught three women from Andhra Pradesh trying to board a flight to Oman on tourist visas with forged passports. They were identified as Lakshmi Pasupeleti, 39, from Kadapa, Gondi Lakshmi Devi, 42, from Ananthpur and Nagalakshmi, 30, from East Godavari. They were apprehended during document verification. They were trying to board a Muscat-bound flight. A verification of their travelling documents by the immigration officials revealed that their passports had been fabricated to conceal their previous travel history. They later confessed that they worked as domestic help in other Gulf countries.

The officials suspected that a local agent helped them to take up another job and was trying to send them on a tourist visa to Oman with forged documents. The three have been arrested. Investigation is on.

Teacher held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Attibele police on Wednesday arrested Manjunath, a teacher at a government primary school, for harassing minor girls. Based on a complaint by the parents of a few victims, the police booked Manjunath under the PoCSO Act 2012 for further investigation.

The probe revealed that the accused was inappropriately touching the girls. One of the victims revealed this to her parents, who checked with other parents and found that the accused seemed to be a habitual offender.

Family game show on Siri Kannada from December 14

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada Television channel Siri Kannada will launch a family game Show, Bangarada Jodi, on December 14, in Davangere.

The programme will have 12 events over 24 days with 48 activities. These include one for elders, one on cookery, drawing competitions and workshop for house builders.

The programme will have 12 events over 24 days with 48 activities

The programme will be telecast on Siri Kannada TV channel every Sunday. To register and participate in this programme, couples can WhatsApp their names to +91 90350 26824, or visit https://www.bangaradajodi.com/.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The bonded labourers who have not received financial aid

4,100 A Bench of Justices B. R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan termed as "alarming" that, out of the 5,264 released bonded labourers (these were the figures placed before it) in Uttar Pradesh , only 1,101 had received immediate financial assistance. PTI

Finland households without electricity in the snowstorm

80,000 Storm Jari came to Finland on Wednesday, with winds on Thursday measuring up to 25 metres (82 feet) per second. The poor weather conditions led to several road accidents and damage to forests. AFP

The climate finance required by developing nations

500 in $ billion. A group of developing nations called on developed economies at COP29 for at least $500 billion per year in climate finance. "We need a figure as a headline to determine whether we are making progress," said the chairman of the Group of 77. AFP

Shiites killed in sectarian violence in Pakistan on Thursday

14 Gunmen opened fire on passenger vehicles carrying Shiite Muslim civilians in restive northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least 14 people and wounding 30 others in one of the deadliest such attacks in recent years in the region, police said. The attack happened in Kurram. AP

Persons booked in Maharashtra for vandalising booths

40 Police have registered a case against around 40 persons after they allegedly vandalised three polling booths at Ghatnandur in Maharashtra's Beed district and damaged some EVMs when voting for the assembly polls were underway. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is Delhi becoming an uninhabitable city?

Delhi is perhaps going to become, if it has not already, an uninhabitable city for two different reasons. In the winters, pollution levels peak, while during summers, the heat waves are unbearable, both affecting Delhi's poor disproportionately

EXPLAINER

Rohit Azad
Shouvik Chakraborty

Air quality index (AQI), according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), is a measure of the concentration of eight pollutants – particulate matter (PM)10, PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O3), ammonia (NH3), and lead (Pb) – in the air at a monitoring location. A sub-index is calculated for each of these pollutants (not all may be measured at every station); and the worst among them is the AQI for that location. So, AQI transforms complex air quality data into an index we can understand.

How uninhabitable is Delhi?

Delhi is perhaps going to become, if it has not already, an uninhabitable city for two different reasons. In winters (October-February), pollution levels peak, while during summers (April-June), the heat waves are unbearable, both affecting Delhi's poor disproportionately. This piece concerns itself with air pollution. This article will focus on the PM2.5 in particular because it dominates the AQI reading in Delhi and is quite dangerous as it is likely to travel to the deeper parts of the lungs owing to its extremely small size, the largest of which is 30 times thinner than human hair.

Chart 1 shows how the quality of air has been over a period of seven years (2017-2023). AQI is categorised in six ranges in India. We have combined some of them to represent as: good (0-50), satisfactory to moderate (51-200), and poor to severe (201 and above). A few things stand out. One, Delhi has had only two days of healthy air per year. Two, more than half a year people are inhaling air unfit for breathing. Three, and quite remarkably, even for 2020, a lockdown year, things were only marginally better. It's clear there is something systemically wrong with the system.

Why is Delhi's air quality so poor?

The government often tells us that stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, and U.P. is responsible for Delhi's pollution. It's a half-truth. We pick the most intense days of November this year when stubble burning's contribution to PM2.5 has been at its peak (in the range of 15-35%). Chart 2 plots the actual AQI against a hypothetical scenario of zero stubble burning, and the result is startling. Not even on one of these days would the AQI have fallen below the very poor AQI benchmark (300). This exercise is not to downplay the role of stubble burning. It is to show that it is a red herring used by the two warring political parties, one which runs the Union Territory and the other this country, to avoid acting on the problem in any serious manner.

What are the factors contributing to the AQI other than stubble burning?

An extensive 2023 report prepared by IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, TERI New Delhi, and Airshed Kanpur shows that, even during winter months, when sources of pollution external to Delhi are at their peak, half of the PM2.5 levels can be apportioned to Delhi itself (Chart 3). Vehicles alone contribute 58% – 34% from the exhaust and 24% due to wear and tear of tyres/brakes – to this total. The only realistic solution to air pollution is a massive shift in the way Delhi travels, that is, from private (cars and motorcycles) to public transport running on cleaner energy, with last mile connectivity, a step which will bring the number of vehicles on the road down significantly.

Why are the winters so much worse?

The concentration of pollutants in the air depends not just on emissions but also on many meteorological factors – temperature, wind direction/speed, and rain, among other things. Hot air, being lighter, moves up (thereby carrying the pollutants with it), whereas cold air traps pollutants and keeps them closer to the ground. Similarly, wind can disperse the pollutants, while rain can force the most common air pollutants, like PM2.5 and PM10, to the ground. Cold air with slow wind speed and no rains make Delhi a pot of pollution with a lid on.

Chart 4 shows that for the months which have a moderate AQI, either the wind speed is relatively higher (February-June) or rainfall is greater (July-September) than the rest of the year. Both these factors, aided by warmer air, lift the air quality of Delhi from poor/severe to moderate. Given that Delhi's own emissions are not winter-specific, its air quality would have been poor throughout the year but for these favourable factors from March through September.

What is the impact?

According to the WHO, 'almost every organ in the body can be impacted by air pollution' and some air pollutants can enter the bloodstream via the lungs which can lead to systemic inflammation and carcinogenicity.

A study in the *Lancet Planet Health* journal shows that, in 2019, an estimated 1.67 million deaths in India were attributable to pollution, and one out of 10 deaths were caused by ambient particulate matter (PM) pollution. The study categorises the deaths attributable to ambient PM, household, and ambient ozone pollution. Chart 5 contrasts the death rates (number of deaths per 1,00,000 population) at the all-India level with those of Delhi.

While Delhi's death rate attributable to household pollution is negligible in comparison to the Indian average, it is higher than the Indian average for ambient PM pollution, which reiterates the unhealthy levels of persistent exposure to PM2.5 and PM10 one has throughout the year. More importantly, this health impact is not undifferentiated across class. The poor and the marginalised suffer disproportionately more than the others. Based on a photo/data essay in the *New York Times*, Chart 6 plots the real-time exposure to PM2.5 for two similar-aged children in Delhi, Monu, who comes from a poor neighbourhood across the Yamuna and Aamya who comes from a more affluent family living in Greater Kailash. The shaded area between the two lines in Chart 6 is the class gap to pollution exposure. With some simplifying assumptions, the article argues that this kind of consistent exposure over a long term could shorten Monu's life by around five years, compared to Aamya (whose life expectancy also gets shortened). Children whose lungs are still developing get adversely affected, and within those, poor children lose much more than their more affluent counterparts.

Calling Delhi a gas chamber is, therefore, definitely not an exaggeration. Surely, we don't want our kids (or residents in general) to lose precious years of their lives because of what is a controllable problem. But it requires a political will and an imagination. Stopgap measures of odd-even, red-light on engine-off, water sprinklers every winter by the AAP government, which has now been in power for almost a decade, or distribution of masks by the BJP are mostly measures aimed at media management, which will have little to no impact on the problems at hand. The Modi government, by shifting the blame on the AAP government without taking any proactive steps itself, shows its absolute lack of sensitivity to the well-being of the citizens, including those who are based in the city.

Rohit Azad is a faculty at the Centre for Economics Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Shouvik Chakraborty is a Research Assistant Professor at the Political Economy Research Institute, Amherst, U.S.

Death by breath in Delhi

While Delhi's death rate attributable to household pollution is negligible in comparison to the Indian average, it is higher than the Indian average for ambient PM pollution, which reiterates the unhealthy levels of persistent exposure one has to PM2.5 and PM10 throughout the year

Chart 1: Quality of Delhi's air over time
Average number of days per year (2017-2023)

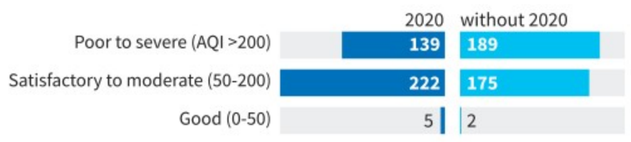
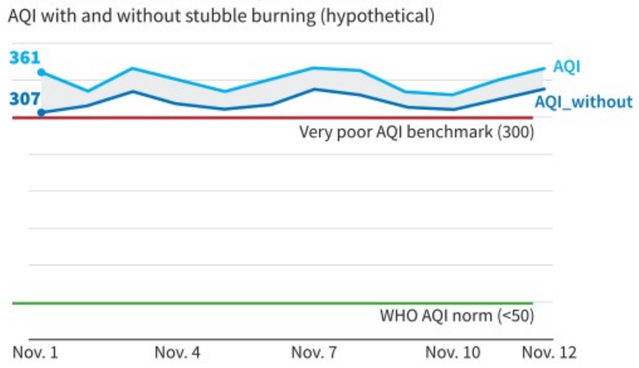


Chart 2: Stubble burning and Delhi's AQI
AQI with and without stubble burning (hypothetical)



1. PM2.5 figures are for Delhi ITO area 2. To construct the hypothetical AQI series without stubble burning, we have deducted the day specific contribution of stubble burning from PM2.5 and then converted those readings into CPCB's AQI calculator

Chart 3: Source apportionment of PM2.5 from within Delhi

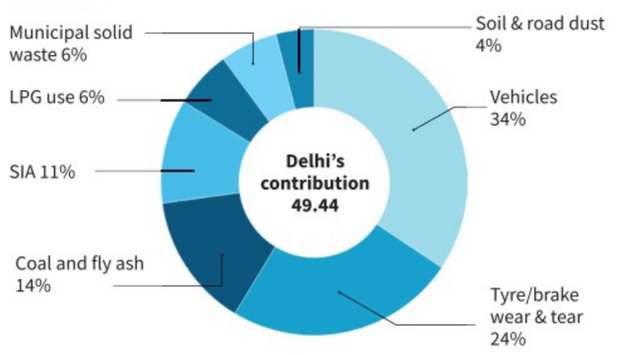


Chart 4: Weather factors and Delhi pollution
Wind speed and rainfall play a role in bringing AQI down

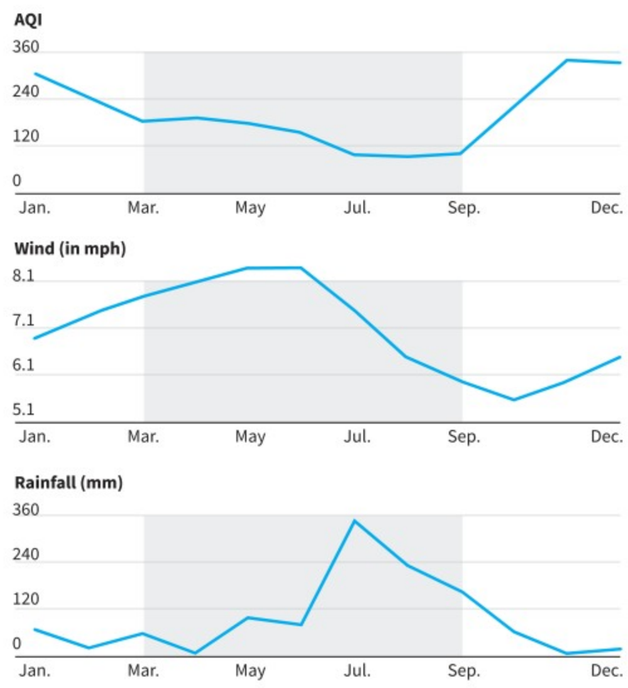
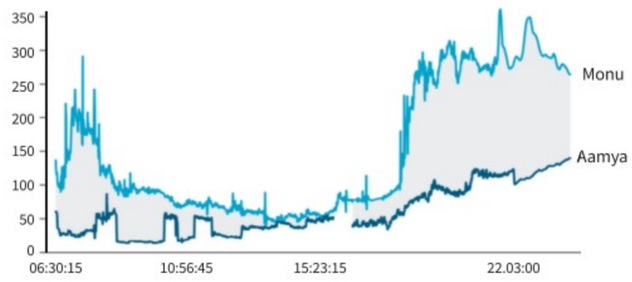


Chart 5: Death rates attributable to air pollution

Chart 6: Exposure to PM2.5 by Monu and Aamya
24 hour monitoring on December 3, 2019



Source: Data for the charts are taken from sansad.in, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Pune (IITM), CPCB, weatherspark.com, DPCC 2023 report, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Press Information Bureau (PIB), Lancet planet health, New York Times article

THE GIST

An extensive 2023 report prepared by IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, TERI New Delhi, and Airshed Kanpur shows that, even during winter months, when sources of pollution external to Delhi are at their peak, half of the PM2.5 levels can be apportioned to Delhi itself.

According to the WHO, 'almost every organ in the body can be impacted by air pollution' and some air pollutants can enter the bloodstream via the lungs which can lead to systemic inflammation and carcinogenicity.

Children whose lungs are still developing get adversely affected, and within those, poor children lose much more than their more affluent counterparts.

From Page One

State's software exports cross ₹4.11 lakh crore

"Under Nipuna, the State has the potential to emerge as the world's most precious and premium talent hub," Mr. Kharge anticipated.

An equipment on display at a stall at the Tech Summit in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

The three-day summit featured an investor connect and under which over 300 start-ups pitched to over 100 investors.

"Out of the 300-odd start-ups, 23 were in ideation stage, 75 from concept validation stage, 140 are from early traction stage and 80 from growth stage," the Minister explained.

Mr. Kharge further said the State would constitute Start-up Awards from next edition (2025) of BTS to recognise excellence in innovation, scalability, and socio-economic impact across India's start-up ecosystem.

BTS-2024 saw participation from 51 countries and it had a line-up of 521 global speakers on a range of tech topics.

Delayed arrivals push up avarekai prices

"Heavy rains in August destroyed my *avare* saplings. This has happened across the area and most of us might harvest just what is needed for our household use," said Srinivas Gowda, another farmer from Chickballapur district.

Although a seasonal crop, *avarekai* is now mostly available throughout the year due to mixed cultivation. However, consumers say it is only the winter crop that comes with its unique *sogadu* (aroma).

If there is any rain in the coming weeks, then it might delay the arrival of *avare* until the end of January or the beginning of February, farmers say. Once the arrivals increase in the market, the price is expected to stabilise at around ₹40 a kg, according to traders.

Citizens cautioned against cyber fraudsters posing as traffic police officers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cyber fraudsters have adopted a new modus operandi, posing as Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) officials and falsely claiming that a person's vehicle has multiple traffic violation cases. These fraudsters send malicious links or QR codes, urging victims to pay the long-pending fines immediately to avoid alleged legal trouble.

Concerned about the increasing number of complaints, BTP issued a clarification on Thursday (November 21), stating they never make such calls or send messages demanding fine payments.

Since callers are able to tell the vehicle number, people tend to fall for it, the police say. FILE PHOTO

Confidence trick

Since callers are able to tell the vehicle number, people tend to fall for it, sources said. Some people have also got messages claiming to have footage of traffic violations.

Several people have got calls claiming to be from BTP and that their vehicle was involved in a hit-and-run case. The call would then be transferred to a fake police officer, who would ask for bank details to verify identity. Once this personal information is shared, the fraudsters access bank accounts and syphon off money. In some instances, Interactive Voice Response Systems calls are also being made to make it look credible.

Ignore such calls

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru, advised people not to entertain any such calls or messages. "We never call individuals to inform them of cases against their vehicles or demand payment of fines online," he said. People should pay fines only online through the official portals of the State government, he said.

People who receive such calls should register complaints on our official website or helpline numbers 080-22868550 or 22868444 or email it to the officials concerned, a statement from BTP said.

High-level committee formed to draft SoP for roadworks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has announced the formation of a high-level committee to create a standard operating procedure (SOP) and handbook for the construction, upgradation, and maintenance of roads within its jurisdiction.

The committee will be led by the Engineer-in-Chief, BBMP, and include other officials, experts from private institutions.

"BBMP oversees a sprawling road network of approximately 12,878.78 km, comprising high-density corridors, arterial and sub-arterial roads, and zone-level streets. The initiative aims to ensure roads are scientifically and technically designed for durability and long-term use," said Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

During a recent progress review meeting chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar the officials emphasised the need for a uniform development model for Bengaluru's roads based on vehicle density, sources said.

The committee's primary focus while drafting the SoP is the scientific design of roads, estimation of construction and maintenance costs, scheduling resurfacing cycles based on vehicle density, designing effective road drainage systems and setting standards for road markings using thermoplastic paint, said Mr. Giri Nath.

The high-level committee will be headed by Engineer-in-Chief, BBMP and other members are Chief Engineers (Planning-Central), Chief Principal Maintenance Officer (BSWML), Superintending Engineer (Electrical), three professors from IISS and and three experts from WRI (India). Deputy Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure) will be member secretary.

The committee will convene on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month to finalise the SOP and handbook.

Lokayukta raid unearths ₹26.6 crore assets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta Police on Thursday raided 22 premises linked to four State government officials in Bengaluru, Mandya and Chikkamagaluru districts and uncovered assets worth ₹26.6 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income. The raid was based on source-based information and a preliminary probe. Cases have been registered against these officials.

The following are the officials whose premises were raided and the amount of assets recovered: Krishnaveni M.C, senior geologist, Mangaluru: ₹11.9 crore; Mahesh, Managing Director, Kaveri Neeravari Nigama Niyamita, Bengaluru: ₹6.8 crore; Mohan K., Superintendent of Excise, at the office of the Joint Commissioner of Excise, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru: ₹4.3 crore; Thippeswamy N.K., Director, Town Planning and Country Planning, Bengaluru: ₹3.4 crore

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **SMT. PUTTAIAH GIRIJA** W/o Late. Sri. K. Narasimhaiah, Aged about 69 years, residing at No.167, 4th Cross, 41st Main, Near Central Silk Board, Behind Central Excise Quarters, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068. That my client's husband died on 07.01.2014 and recently my client found that the original documents pertaining to the schedule property herein below were not found at home and after learning the same my client has reported the same by Complaint in LR No.0992798/2024 u/s 155 of CRPC on 27.03.2024. The public Notice also issued in Kannada Paper and now this Notice in English Vernacular which is hereby noticed that the original sale deed dated.06.08.2002 executed by Bangalore Development authority in favour of Sri. K. Narasimhaiah vide registered Document No.5934/2002-03, Book-1, Volume No.601 at pages 190-196 registered before the Additional District Registrar, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru and Original Allotment Letter and possession Certificate issued by BDA has been misplaced and not traceable yet. The lost report of the same as mentioned above before Bengaluru City Police. If anybody found kindly inform to my client vide PH NO:9980343109, 6360732687 and also to me.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY WHICH LOST/MISPLACED ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:-

All that piece and parcel of the vacant site bearing **Site No.959, Block No.3,** situated at **Banashankari 6th Stage, Bengaluru,** and bounded on:

EAST BY : Site No.960,
WEST BY : Site No.958,
NORTH BY : Site No.969 & Site No.970,
SOUTH BY : Road.
MEASURING:
EAST to WEST : 12-00 Mtrs.
NORTH to SOUTH : 18-00 Mtrs.
Totally measuring : 216-00 Square Mtrs

(K.B. NAVEEN KUMAR)
Advocate
No. 46/1, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Brundavan Hotel Complex, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003.
M : 9591378500, 080-40944648

BEFORE THE HON'BLE 43rd ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS COURT, AT BENGALURU. (CCH- 44) FDP 92 of 2024.

BETWEEN Mr. S. Sunderrajan
S/o. Sri S. Subbarathnam aged about 50 years, Residiing at C7-508, Provident Welworth City, Marasandra, Doddaballapur Main Road, Bengaluru-561203 **...Petitioner**
AND
Mr. S. Subbarathnam and Others
....Respondents

SUMMONS TO THE RESPONDENTS Nos 1, 2 AND 3 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20

1. Respondent No. 1 :
Mr. S. Subbarathinam S/o Late. Sundaresan, Aged about 86 years,
2. Respondent No. 2 :
Smt. S. Srividya W/o Sri. S. Sridhar, Aged about 54 years, Both residing at C-5, Gopuram, Kent Illam Apartments, Vennal High School Road, Vennala, Cochin – 682028.
3. Respondent No.3 :
Smt Sripriya D/o Subbarathinam Aged about 47 years Residing at #2136, Shobha Sunbeam Hillview Apartment Complex, Nagegowdana palya, Off Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru-560 062

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the Petitioner has instituted the above Respondents for appoint commissioner for taking possession and other orders.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court in person or by a pleader on **9th December 2024 at 11:00 a.m** to answer the same, failing which the suit will be heard and disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, on this **18th November 2024.**

By Order of the Court
Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Sudharsan Suresh,
Advocate for the Petitioner,
Trust Law, Advocates & Solicitors,
29/11, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, Mount Joy Road, Benagalur-560 019

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 040.

No: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-10/2024-25 **Date: 21.11.2024**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) - (Through GoK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Govindarajanagara Division), BBMP, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Consultants for the Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of work
1	Consultancy Services for Construction, Supervision, Project Management & Quality Assurance for the work of 2023-24 & 2024-25 civil works in Govindarajanagara Division. **Approx. Cost of the Project:** Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs.**Cost of PMC Tender:** Rs.10.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.50,000/-.

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal of GoK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. 2) Date of Pre-bid meeting at the office of the Executive Engineer (Govindarajanagara) on : **25.11.2024 at 16.00 hrs.** 3) Last date for uploading the filled proposals: **28.11.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.** 4) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals: **29.11.2024 after 16:30 hrs.** 5) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **after Approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or from the KPP portal of GoK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP

DAVANGERE UNIVERSITY
Office ofthe Registrar (Evaluation), Shivagangothri, Davangere-577 007.Karnataka Ph: 6363463991

NO:DU:EB:67:2024-25:2593 Date:21.11.2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-tenders are invited from eligible tenderers for the
(1) Supply of Answer Booklets- Tender No: DU/2024-25/IND0022
(2) Supply of Vehicle on hire basis to Examination Section- Tender No: DU/2024-25/SE0007
at Davangere University, Shivagangothri, Davangere.
The tenderers should apply filled applications on or before 02.12.2024. Details can be obtained from this office and in e-procurement portal http://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in.For more information contact Registrar (Evaluation) No.6363463991.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/515/ಕೆವಿಎಂಸಿ/2024–25

Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South, South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EEP(S)/kppp/e-Portal/11/2024-25 **Date: 21-11-2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Special Repairs to BBMP Zonal Office Building. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 62.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,24,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **27-11-2024 at 4.00 PM at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Project South). 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **02-12-2024 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **04-12-2024 at 4.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **06-12-2024 at 5.00 PM or After Technical Bid Approval.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Gnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No:VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/T-673,674,675/2024-25/4376 Date: 21-11-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites e-Tenders (Two Cover Systems) for the following works through e-Procurement Tendering Mode.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tenders	Estimated Amount	EMD Amount
1	**T-673:** Tender for Supply of Blazers for Inter Collegiate Sports / Games 2024-2025 Sports Section, VTU, Belagavi.	30,72,000/-	61,500/-
2	**T-674:** Tender for Supply of Silver Medal for Inter Collegiate Sports / Games 2024-2025 Sports Section, VTU, Belagavi.	62,72,700/-	1,25,500/-
3	**T-675:** Tender for Supply of Tracksuits & Coordinates for Inter Collegiate Sports / Games 2024-2025 Sports Section, VTU, Belagavi.	19,45,600/-	39,000/-

Last Date for Receipt of Tender is **05-12-2024 upto 2.30 PM.** Date of Opening of Tender is **06-12-2024 at 4.00 PM.** The details regarding participation in the e-Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU Website: **www.vtu.ac.in** and KPPP Portal Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Belagavi/1173/Adverto/2024-25

Sd/-
Registrar

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 26/MYS/2024 of 15.11.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I:** Rebuilding of stone arch bridge with RCC box for Bridge No.53 at Km.285/200-300 in Chikjajur-Karajgi Sections. **Sub Work-II:** Rebuilding of stone arch bridge with arch-shaped RCC boxes for Bridge No.58 at Km.281/900-282/000 in Chikjajur-Karajgi Sections. **Sub Work-III:** Strengthening of bridge No.93 at Km.68/300-400 by jacketting in Chikjajur- Rayadurga Sections.	Rs. 2,11,92,858/-
2	Mysuru: Supply of potable water to GLR of LC, VRC, Railway Hospital, Pit line & Station for 2 years.	Rs. 27,75,000/-
3	Hassan-Mangaluru section:- Estimate of complete Bridge Channel Sleeper Renewal with H Beam sleeper for Bridges in Hassan-Sakleshpur and Subrahmanya Road-Padil plain section.	Rs. 10,24,90,859/-
4	Hassan-Mangaluru section:- Estimate of complete Bridge Channel Sleeper Renewal with H Beam sleeper for Bridges in Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road ghat section.	Rs. 29,17,44,347/-
5	**Sub Work-I:-** Mysuru Jn.- Hole Narsipur (SL) - TRR(P) - 29.575 Tkm (Km.55/850 - 67/350 & 68/325-86/400) **Sub Work-II:-** Mysuru-YELIYUR-TRR(P) -7.175 Km, Km.130.45 - Km.135.7 DN line, Km.128.9 - Km.130 & Km.135.7 to Km.136.525 UP line **Sub Work-III:-** Mysuru - Yeliyur - CTR(P) - 2.150 Tkm (Km.136/525 - km. 137/600 UP -1.075 Tkm & DN - 1.075 Tkm) **Sub Work-IV:-** Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mysuru:- ISD on Loop lines - Ashokapuram-RD1& 3, Kadakola-RD1& 3, Nanjangud Town-RD1& 3, Chamarajanagar-RD1&3, Byadarahalli-RD1&4, Pandavapura-RD1&4, Naganahalli-RD1&4, Belagula-RD1&2, Sagarakatte-RD-1, Krishanrajanaga-RD-1, Hosa Agrahara-RD-1, Akkihebbalu-RD-1, Mandagere-RD-1 for a total length of 17.036 Kms.	Rs. 5,07,73,466/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 09-12-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/586/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination, Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | sw_railways | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1 (BSWML), 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Email: bluruswml2021@gmail.com

No. DGM-1/(BSWML)/Corr-01/24-25 **Date:21.11.2024**

CORRIGENDUM - 1

Sub: Extension of calendar of events for Tender Notification
Ref: This office Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/06/24-25, Dated: 04.11.2024.

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

Time schedule / calendar of events:

Sl. No.		As per tender notification	Extended dates please read as
1	Last date and time for uploading qualification documents	29.11.2024 up-to 16:00 hrs.	12.12.2024 up-to 16:00 hrs.
2	Opening of tender date and time	30.11.2024 after 16:30 hrs.	13.12.2024 after 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK KPP Portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML

DIPR/CP/3361/MAA/2024-25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿಉ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನಂ 03/2024–25:ಜೆಇ–1/2138/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–11–2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ e-portal ನಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರಿಂದ 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವೇಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **(Standard Tender Documents for Procurment of Goods)** ನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal WEBsite **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–11–2024 ರಿಂದ 30–11–2024ರ 4.00** (PM) **ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ.** (2) ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನುತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–12–2024 ರ 11.00** (AM) ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–12–2024 ರ 4.00** (PM) ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SATISH Digambarrao Madnurkar, son of Digambarrao Dattopant Madnurkar, residing at Fl no 132, Prestige Casabella, Basapura Road, Chickthogur, Behind Elite green apartment, Chickathogur, VCT, PO Electronic city, Karnataka – 560100 have corrected my & my wifes name in my sons Migration certificate and 10th Marks certificate as my name from Satish Madunurkar to Satish Digambarrao Madnurkar and my wifes name from Yogini Madunurkar to Yogini Satish Madnurkar. Vide affidavit dated: 20.11.2024 sworn before XXI Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

A screengrab from *Awara*.

Remembering the first Indian Film Festival in China

From October 17 to 23, 1955, China hosted the Indian Republic Film Week showcasing the documentary series 'Art and Construction of India' alongside feature films like 'Awara', 'Do Bigha Zamin', and 'Aandhiyan'. These screenings took place across twenty cities in China

Zhou Xin

Born in China in the 1980s, I was raised amidst the melodic, if slightly off-key, renditions of "Awara hoon" by my parents. Their fondness for *Awara*, China's most beloved Indian film, spanned decades. And herein lies the deep affection that a generation of Chinese people had for Indian cinema. On this significant occasion, we honour Raj Kapoor as a cultural ambassador and the historic debut of Indian cinema in China, a moment that deserves enduring remembrance.

Debuting Indian cinema

Motivated by the spirit of Asian socialist camaraderie, in 1954, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made a historic visit to China, becoming the first leader from a non-socialist nation to do so. This visit paved the way for China and India to bring the highly acclaimed "Indian Film Festival," which had been a resounding success in the Soviet Union that year, to Chinese audiences. In 1955, *Awara* made its debut in China through this festival.

From October 17 to 23, 1955, China hosted the "Indian Republic Film Week" (hereinafter referred to as the "Indian Film Week"), showcasing the documentary series *Art and Construction of India* alongside feature films like *Awara*, *Do Bigha Zamin*, and *Aandhiyan*. These screenings took place across twenty cities, including Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai. The event concluded with an impressive viewership of over three million.

During the film week, China also extended an invitation to a 12-member delegation of Indian film industry professionals, headed by Prithviraj Kapoor, who portrayed Raj's father in *Awara*. The delegation received a cordial welcome from Premier Zhou Enlai, marking a historic moment as it was the first time that China had started dubbing Indian films, thus kicking off the initial wave of Indian cinema's popularity and acceptance in the country.

This article delves into the original reports from two predominant Chinese media outlets of the era, *People's Daily* and *Mass Film*, to reflect the sentiments of the Chinese cultural sphere and the general audience towards these Indian cinematic masterpieces.

Statements in official reports

The *People's Daily,* established in 1948 as the official newspaper of the Communist Party of China, dedicated significant coverage to the 1955 Indian Film Festival. On October 17, Vice Minister of Culture Xia Yan commemorated the opening of the film week, stating, "The Indian film delegation serves as an artistic, friendly, and peaceful ambassador from the Indian government and its people to China." The newspaper also documented the profound impact the Chinese audience's fervent reception had on the visiting Indian filmmakers, capturing a pivotal moment in the tapestry of Sino-Indian cultural exchanges characterised by mutual appreciation and understanding.

On October 18, 1955, at an exchange event at Dahua Cinema in Beijing, Prithviraj Kapoor's speech was constantly interrupted by applause from the audience. On the same day, at the Jiaodaokou Cinema in Beijing, Indian film delegation member and renowned progressive writer and film screenwriter Krishan Chandar was moved to express to the audience after seeing the warm welcome: "The presence of the Indian people and the voice of Indians in Chinese cinema is a symbol of the friendship and cooperation between India and China."

Within film culture

Mass Film, founded in June 1950, is the oldest and most influential popular film culture publication in China. The 19th issue of *Mass Film* in 1955 was a special issue for the Indian Film Week. This issue included articles written by famous Chinese writers Bing Xin and Zheng Zhenduo, the most famous Chinese director Cai Chusheng, and the lead actors of the Indian films *Do Bigha Zamin* and *Awara*.

Raj Kapoor and Nargis Dutt, who were unable to visit China, wrote articles for the Chinese magazine. Raj Kapoor points out, "The screening of Indian films in the People's Republic of China will greatly strengthen the long-standing cultural relationship between these two peace-loving countries... Its theme song, 'Awara Hoon', has also become one of the most beloved songs among Soviet youth... I hope that Chinese audiences, who are rapidly moving towards a perfect socialist society, will appreciate the exciting conflicts in this film."

Nargis published an article titled "I Saved the Soul of a Vagabond," in which she wrote at the end, "I would like to talk about the significance of the film *Awara* being shown in China. What I remember is the first significant contribution to strengthening the friendly relations between the peoples of India and China, especially between Indian and Chinese film workers, was a biographical film we produced in India several years ago called *The Immortal Story of Dr. Kotnis*. Dr. Kotnis came to China during the Anti-Japanese War and later sacrificed [himself] on the front line. The film was also very popular in India... The friendship and personal contact between Indian and Chinese film workers are developing more and more rapidly. Let me greet the Chinese youth in the name of Rita, my character in the film, and greet them for laying the foundation for a socialist society that will not produce 'vagrants.' I look forward to visiting China." Chinese writers, in addition to focusing on the three feature films, also showed great enthusiasm for the new independent India reflected in the documentary collection *Art and Architecture of India*. The famous writer and Chinese translator of Tagore's poetry, Ms. Bing Xin, detailed how she was impressed by the spirit of the Indian people in building water conservancies, the exquisite level of craftsmanship, and the rich resources of south India. Writer Zheng Zhenduo reviewed the brilliant civilisation of India, the ancient friendship between China and India, and the "estrangement" of the two countries in the recent hundred years. Through several parts of the documentary such as "Indian Water Conservancy" and "Song of South India," he sighed: "How hard Indian scientists, engineers, and the public are working for the long-term welfare of the Indian people! Their strength is so great! Their will and aspirations are far-reaching and strong!"

Renowned Chinese director Cai Chusheng celebrated the "Indian Film Week" in an article, noting its importance for China's film industry and cultural scene. "This is a significant event for the Chinese film industry and also a significant event in the cultural life of our people... The works all contain many wonderful songs, all of which are so harmonious and beautiful, playing a profound lyrical and descriptive role in the inner realm of the characters. This is a major feature of Indian national cinema, which we should deeply praise. These brilliant works... will certainly help our audience better understand our close neighbours – the great Indian nation. Long live Sino-Indian friendship! Long live peace!" If you search Chinese ordinary people' feelings about *Awara* and Raj Kapoor on Chinese websites, the comments are countless. But in short, these can be summarised by one audience's writing published in *People's Daily* on November 2, 1955, "The high Himalayas cannot separate the mutual care of the people," "Through the film story, we feel closer to the Indian people."

The writer is affiliated with the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"Remember the Englishman we met last week? He's got the German measles.

"German measles! Poor Mike! he said he had to be back in London tomorrow because he didn't have any leave left."

"Well, if that's the case, then I guess he'll just have to take French leave."

"French leave? What's that?"

"That's when you're absent from work without actually applying for leave. You stay away without getting anybody's permission. The Americans call it "playing hooky".

"Mike will probably be 'playing hooky'. I don't think an Englishman would like the idea of being on French leave."

"True. The doctor has asked him to take complete rest for a few days."

"So I guess he'll just have to sleep and dream sweet dreams."

"You mean something like the American Dream?"

"The American Dream?"

"It's defined as 'an American ideal of a happy and successful life to which all may aspire'."

"What's so American about that dream? We all want to lead a happy and successful life. Anyway, right now Mike will probably be having nightmares about his boss. He's really scared of him."

"In that case, he should drink a lot of Scotch whisky and let Dutch courage do the rest."

"What is Dutch courage?"

"It is false courage that is gained from alcohol."

"German measles. American dream, French leave, Dutch courage. Why are you speaking like this today?"

"What's wrong? Is everything I say Greek and Latin to you?"

"Somewhat. Can we eat something? I'm feeling hungry."

"What shall we eat? French bread? French fries?"

"Anything. I am hungry."

"You'll have to wait. I have to have a bath first."

"A Turkish bath?"

"No, not a Turkish bath. But I'll be using a Turkish towel to dry myself."

"All right. Dry up and go and have your bath."

"How can I dry up before I take my bath?"

" 'Dry up' is an informal expression meaning 'stop talking'. In this sense, it is always used in the imperative."

"I see."

"I am glad you do."

Published in The Hindu on February 22, 1994.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With the King Cobra being recently re-categorised into four distinct species, a quiz to test your knowledge of snakes

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
The common scientific name of the King Cobra is 'Ophiophagus hannah'. What does the Greek genus name allude to?

QUESTION 2
Apart from the Northern and Western Ghats species, which are the other two species of the King Cobra?

QUESTION 3
Which snake holds the record for being the longest in the world?

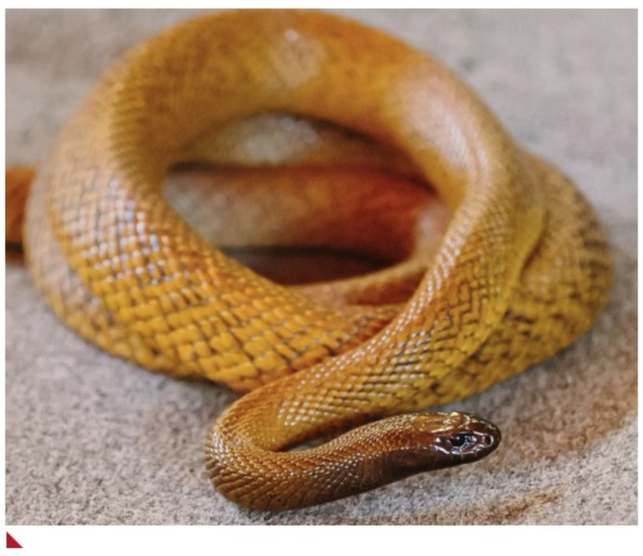
QUESTION 4
Why is the Black Mamba, one of the fastest and deadliest snakes in the world, so named?

QUESTION 5
Which is the only snake that can retract its fangs?

QUESTION 6
What is the common name for 'Crotalus cerastes' which comes from the way it moves?

QUESTION 7
Snakes smell through their tongues and pass it on to which structure on the roof of the mouth to interpret?

QUESTION 8
What is special about the Brahminy blind snake?



Visual question:
Identify this species considered the most venomous in the world.
ISTOCKPHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Number of Tests India has won in Australia out of 52. **Ans: 9**
2. The ground in Australia which has been a hunting ground for India. **Ans: Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)**
3. This player had a identical bowling figure of 6 for 52 in each innings in India's first ever test win on Australian soil. **Ans: B.S. Chandrasekhar at MCG in December 1977**
4. Name the trio who have been part of all four wins in the last two series. **Ans: Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Rishabh Pant**
5. The only Indian to have taken more than 50 wickets on Australian soil. **Ans: Kapil Dev. 51 wickets in 11 tests**
6. The Indian batsmen that has figured in two triple century partnerships. **Ans: V.V. S Laxman**
7. Apart from BS Chandrasekhar, the other two bowlers who have taken 10 or more wickets in a test in Australia. **Ans: B.S. Bedi 10/194 at Perth in December 1977 and Anil Kumble 12/279 at SCG in January 2004**

Visual: Identify the player. **Ans: Vijay Hazare; he became the first Indian to score a hundred in each innings at Adelaide in January 1948**

Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Dodo Jayaditya| Piyali Tuli| Abhay Krishan| Sonali Das

Word of the day

Denigrate:
cause to seem less serious; play down; charge falsely or with malicious intent; attack the good name and reputation of someone

Synonyms: belittle, derogate, minimise, besmirch, defame, slander, smear, sully

Usage: *People are trying to denigrate the importance of a good education.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/denigratepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdɛn.ɪ.ɡeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Bengaluru metro opens Dasarahalli foot overbridge after a long delay

It provides significant relief to thousands of commuters who previously had to cross the hazardous Tumakuru Road to access the station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After years of delay, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has inaugurated the much-anticipated foot overbridge (FoB) at the Dasarahalli metro station. It provides significant relief to thousands of commuters who previously had to cross the hazardous Tumakuru Road to access the station.

The foot overbridge at the Dasarahalli metro station that was opened on Wednesday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Safety risks

Tumakuru Road, a key arterial route in Bengaluru, connects the city with other parts of Karnataka, including the Peenya Industrial Area and nearby residential neighbourhoods. Known for its heavy traffic comprising trucks, buses, and private vehicles, the road has long been a challenge for pedestrians, posing serious safety risks. Since the station's opening on May 1, 2015, the lack of an FoB forced commuters to navigate the busy road, often risking their lives. The eight-year wait for this vital pedestrian facility has drawn criticism despite its recent completion. BMRCL officials stated, "The wait is over. We opened the FoB at the Dasarahalli metro station last week, which will benefit hundreds of commuters daily."

Prolonged delay

While the addition has been welcomed, many voiced frustration over the prolonged delay. Shilpa Rao, a resident of 8th Mile, said, "Crossing Tumakuru Road was a nightmare. I would wait endlessly for a break in traffic, but even then, vehicles would speed past. This FoB is a huge relief, but it should have been built long ago."

Parthasarathy Sreedharan, a regular commuter who travels from Dasarahalli to J.P. Nagar, echoed similar sentiments. "I've seen people narrowly escape accidents on this stretch. It was terrifying. While the FoB is a welcome development, the delay was unnecessary and put lives at risk. I hope the authorities prioritise other busy metro stations lacking proper pedestrian access."

In response to mounting complaints in 2018, the BMRCL initially proposed constructing a subway for safer road crossing and issued tenders for the project. However, this plan was scrapped after the tender floated in April 2018 was cancelled. Later that year, officials shifted focus to building a FoB and issued fresh tenders in 2021, finally culminating in the opening of the bridge.

Another BMTC bus driver assaulted

Past incidents

November 12: S.J. Park police arrest a 32-year-old mechanic for assaulting a BMTC bus driver at the busy corporation circle

November 10: Byatarayanapura police arrest a 36-year-old carpenter for assaulting a bus driver at Hale Guddadahalli junction on Mysuru Road

October 26: Two bikers assault a BMTC conductor and a contract driver on Tannery Road

October 24: A passenger attacks a conductor over a trivial dispute

October 1: Conductor stabbed by a passenger for asking him to move from the footboard

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In yet another case of violence against Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation staff, a bus driver was assaulted by a motorist on J.C. Road on Wednesday. The incident occurred around 5.40 p.m. near a traffic signal on Nrupathunga Road, and a complaint has been registered at Halasuru Gate police station.

The driver, identified as Kushal Kumar, was operating a bus on the Majestic-C.K. Palya route when the assailant, Mohamed Faizal, allegedly began hurling abuses at him. According to the complaint, Mr. Faizal then boarded the bus and physically assaulted Kumar. Another motorist also reportedly verbally abused Mr. Kumar during the altercation.

Police suspect the incident stemmed from road rage, though the exact cause remains under investigation.

This is the sixth reported attack on BMTC staff since October 1.

HC adjourns hearing on Darshan's plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday adjourned till November 26 the hearing on petitions filed by actors Darshan and Pavithra Gowda, and other accused seeking their release on regular bail in the Renukaswamy murder case. Meanwhile, the court took on record the medical reports of Darshan, to whom it had granted interim bail on medical reasons to undergo surgery for his back pain.

Renukaswamy was allegedly kidnapped and murdered by people working for Darshan after he allegedly sent lewd messages to Darshan's friend Pavithra Gowda.

As Darshan's advocate submitted the reports in a sealed cover, the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) P. Prasanna Kumar told the court that the prosecution was not aware of the contents of the medical report as copies of the report were not given to him.

Medical reports

Following this submission, Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty ordered the registry to provide copies of medical reports to the SPP.

Also, the court asked the SPP to file a response, if necessary, to the medical reports while adjourning further hearing till November 26.

In its October 30 order of granting interim bail to Darshan, the court had directed him to submit medical reports from the hospital mentioning the probable date of his surgery, period of admission required for the proposed treatment and follow-up treatment, etc.

16th BGS Founder's Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nirmalanandanatha Swami, president of Sri Adichunchanagiri Education Trust, lauded the late Balagangadharanatha Swami for his extraordinary vision, which transcended even the understanding of technologists.

Speaking at the launch of the two-day 16th BGS Founder's Day and 'BGS Utsav-2024' on Thursday, he emphasised the importance of students today understanding the immense sacrifices and contributions made by the late seer to society.

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy praised the immense contribution of the late seer to the healthcare sector.

Curbs imposed on temple jathra in Bandipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Forest Department has imposed restrictions on the annual jathra of Beladakuppe Sri Mahadeshwaraswamy Temple which is in the core area of Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

This year's event will take place from November 23 to 25. The temple comes under the Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Department or the Muzrai Department, which has been told of the dos and don'ts that need to be borne in mind as the temple is located within the tiger reserve.

S. Prabhakaran, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said adequate staff and security personnel would be deployed to ensure that people did not break the law, and KSRTC buses would ferry devotees from the outskirts of the forests to the temple in the core region and bring them back.

Govt. streamlines registration of converted but undeveloped land

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has enabled the option of reflecting converted but undeveloped land in the Bhoomi RTC (Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops) portal.

There were persistent challenges in registering converted but undeveloped land. Securing khatas for such land through urban or rural local bodies had been a complicated process.

Even when e-khatas were issued, these land parcels were often categorised as developed, leading to disproportionately high stamp and registration charges.

To fix this, the government has enabled the reflection of converted but undeveloped land in the Bhoomi RTC, Revenue Department said in a statement on Thursday.

Securing khata for converted but undeveloped land through urban or rural local bodies had been a complicated process.

This allows transactions to be conducted based on RTC entries. The integration of the Kaveri 2 registration system with the Bhoomi database ensures a seamless process, with stamp and registration charges now levied appropriately.

This reform reduces the financial strain on citizens and provides much-needed clarity, the statement said. Another key issue involved relinquishing roads, parks, and playgrounds in approved layouts to local bodies, a mandatory step before sites in these layouts could be sold. Previously, the lack of a clear process for creating e-khatas for such assets stalled layout sales. Now the Department of Municipal Administration (DMA) has issued a circular allowing e-khatas for these assets to be created in the name of the original landowners or developers. Once created, these assets can be relinquished to local bodies.

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ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಸಂ.ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1:24–25ಟಿ28/ತಿದ್ದು/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–11–2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:28:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14–10–2024 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾದ 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.22. DMA/2024-25/SE3155/CALL-2, ಆವರಗೊಳ್ಳದ 200 ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಡಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕದ ಕಾರ್ಯಚರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.490.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–11–2024 ರಿಂದ 28–11–2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/514/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/TZ/GLB/SEE (O)/AEE-1/2024-25/12515 Date:21.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, Transmission Zone Kalaburagi, Invites bids from the eligible bidders for the following bid enquiry nos:

Bid Enquiry No: CEE/TZ/GLB/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2024-25/Services-1/Driver-2Nos dtd:06.11.2024. for "Outsourcing the Services of 2Nos of Driver to the vehicles of 1) CEE TZ, Kalaburagi (Innova) and 2) Hot Line Sub-division at Munirabad by an external agency" under the jurisdiction of Transmission Zone, KPTCL Kalaburagi.

The bids will be received through "KPP Portal Mode" only. The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22.11.2024**. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission Zone, Prasarana Bhavana, KPTCL, Sadam Road, Kalaburgi.

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA

4th 'T' Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru – 560 041, Ph No.080-26961928 Fax-080-26961929

No:RGU/PROC/Cleaning Material/22/2024-25 Date: 21.11.2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Supply of Cleaning Materials for House Keeping to RGUHS. More details on the services are provided in the attached Terms of Reference. **(Tender No: RGUHSK/2024-25/IND0013/Call-3)**

Tender document available for downloaded	**21/11/2024 12:04 Hrs**
Pre Bid meeting	**28/11/2024 11:29 Hrs**
Last date for receipt of Tender	**06/12/2024 17:29 Hrs**
Date of Sample Submission	**06/12/2024 17:30 Hrs**
Opening of Technical Bid	**09/12/2024 11:30 Hrs**
Opening of Financial Bid	**11/12/2024 11:00 Hrs**
Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/SI/3343/2024-25 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, (BSWML), 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No. DGM-2/(BSWML)/Corr- 01/2024-25 Date: 21.11.2024

CORRIGENDUM - 01

Sub: Extension of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.

Ref: This office Tender Notification No. DGM-2/BSWML /TEND/08/2024-25, Dated: 30.10.2024.

******

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl No		As per tender notification	Extended dates please read as
1	Last date and time for uploading qualification documents	On 29.11.2024 up-to 16:00 hrs.	On 12.12.2024 up-to 16:00 hrs.
2	Opening of tender date and time	On 30.11.2024 at 16:30 hrs.	On 13.12.2024 at 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-2 BSWML

DIPR/CP/3360/AKAR/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids are invited through GoK e-procurement portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works.

Sl. No.	Project, Tender No. & Date, Name of the Work & Contract Person	Tender Amount / EMD	Last Date for Submission
1	**SHARAVATHY HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, KPCL/2024-25/IND1307, 08.11.2024**. Supply of 01 No. of 11KV/230V, 16KVA Single Phase Neutral Grounding Transformer for SVP.	— / Rs. 3,500/-	25.11.2024 upto 16:30 Hrs.
2	**KPCL/2024-25/IND1323, 13.11.2024**. Supply of Chevron packing seals for MIV Servomotor, Needle Servomotor, Deflector Servomotor, Bypass valve Servomotor for Sharavathy Generating Station, SVP.	— / Rs. 4,365/-	29.11.2024 upto 16:30 Hrs.
3	**KPCL/2024-25/IND1250/CALL-2, 14.11.2024**. Supply of 1 No. New minimum 7 Ton Payload capacity Lorry for SVP. Office of the **Executive Engineer (MSP)J, KPCL, Jogfalls - 577435, Shivamogga District,** Mobile: **94495 98847.** E-mail: **eemspj@gmail. com.** For Sl. No. 1,2 & 3.	— / Rs. 50,000/-	02.12.2024 upto 16:30 Hrs.
4	**KALI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-I & STAGE-II, KPCL/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT2069/CALL-2, 15.11.2024**. Improvements to secondary lines of UGD system of Ganeshgudi colony.	Rs. 3.26 Lakhs / Rs. 8,200/-	25.11.2024 17:30 Hrs.
5	**KPCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT2108/CALL-2, 15.11.2024**. Improvements to Recreations Club Buildings at Ganeshgudi.Office of the **Executive Engineer (Civil)Supa, KPCL, Ganeshgudi - 581365. Joida Taluk, Uttar Kannada District.** For Sl. No.4 & 5.	Rs. 4.83 Lakhs / Rs. 12,100/-	
6	**KPCL/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT2254**. Resurfacing of internal roads at Kadra RH center and road from Kadra primary health center to Rajivnagar. Office of the **Executive Engineer (Civil)Kadra, KPCL, Kadra - 581396.**	Rs. 25.23 Lakhs / Rs. 50,500/-	25.11.2024 16:00 Hrs.
7	**VARAHI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, Reserved for ST category. KPCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT2266, 15.11.2024.** Providing painting with repairs to A, B & C Type residential buildings at Masthikatte Colony, (Phase-II). Office of the **Executive Engineer (Civil),Masthikatte, Hosanagara, Shivamogga District,** Phone No.: **94495 98842.**	Rs. 21.19 Lakhs / Rs. 25,000/-	02.12.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs.
8	**MAHATHMA GANDHI HYDRO ELECTRIC WORKS, KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2194. 14.11.2024.** Annual Maintenance Contract(AMC) of portable fire extinguishers and intelligent addressable fire alarm system at MGHE Works. Office of the **Executive Engineer (Mechanical Maintenance), Mahathma Gandhi Hydro Electric Works, KPCL, Jogfalls-577435, Sagar Taluk, Shivamogga District,** Phone No.: **91416 12716,** e-mail: **eemmmghekpcl@karnataka.gov.in.**	— / —	28.11.2024 15:00 Hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group

ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058, Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094184, 4196, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541, 4186).

Name of work	**Providing redundant power supply to main LT panel, 63A STS, CCTV & VSAT antennas at ISTRAC Ground Station, Port Blair.**	**Electrical work for Refurbishment of Street Light at IDSN Campus, Byalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**
E-Tender Notice No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-60/2024-25 Dated: 21.11.2024**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-61/2024-25 Dated: 21.11.2024**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 14.77 Lakhs**	**Rs. 23.59 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**Two (02) Months**	**Three (03) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs on 22.11.2024 to 07.12.2024 till 16.00 hrs.**	
Bid Clarification	**From 11.00 hrs on 23.11.2024 to 08.12.2024 to till 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date and time of reply to Bid Clarifications	**09.12.2024 up to 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**10.12.2024 up to 16.00 hrs.**	
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**12.12.2024 up to 11.00 hrs.**	
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 29,540/-**	**Rs. 47,180/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details in website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **SRI. MUNIREDDY** S/o Late. Sri. Guruvareddy, Aged about 53 years, Residing at No.11, 3rd Cross, Sameerapura, Kempegowda Nagar, Gavipuram Extension, Bengaluru-560019, has intends enter in to sale agreement to purchase the below mentioned "Schedule property" and intends to get sale deed from its owners i.e. **1. SMT. PUTTAIAH GIRIJA** W/o Late. Sri. K. Narasimhaiah, Aged about 69 years, **2. SRI. DEEPAK KHADRI NARASIMHAIAH** S/o Late. Sri. K. Narasimhaiah, Aged about 40 years and **3. SMT. K.N. DEEPTHI** D/o Late. Sri. K. Narasimhaiah, Aged about 43 years, all are residing at No.167, 4th Cross, 41st Main, Near Central Silk Board, Behind Central Excise Quarters, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068. Any person/s, entity, firms, societies claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to the schedule property and or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, gift, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, order/ decree/ judgment of any court, agreement or otherwise however to the schedule property shall file his/her/its/their objections/claims with true copies of documentary proof in support thereof, to the under signed, at the address given below within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant site bearing **Site No.959, Block No.3,** situated at **Banashankari 6th Stage, Bengaluru,** and bounded on:

EAST BY : Site No.960,
WEST BY : Site No.958,
NORTH BY : Site No.969 & Site No/970,
SOUTH BY : Road.
MEASURING:
EAST to WEST : 12-00 Mtrs.
NORTH to SOUTH : 18-00 Mtrs.
Totally measuring : 216-00 Square Mtrs

(K.B. NAVEEN KUMAR)
Advocate
No. 46/1, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Brundavan Hotel Complex, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003.
M : 9591378500, 080-40944648

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 28/2024-25

e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com

Letter No. 5436 dt. 18.11.2024

1. No. of the work	:-	**4 number Building Works and 1 number Compound Wall & Approach Road**
2. Estimated cost	:-	**Rs. 108.91 Lakhs to Rs. 386.12 Lakhs**
3. Class of Contractor	:-	**"B" Class & "A" Class**
4. Period of completion	:-	**4 (Four) Calendar Months to 9 (Nine) Calendar Months**
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:-	**From 11.00 Hours of 29.11.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 13.12.2024**
6. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:-	**16.00 Hours of 13.12.2024**
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:-	**11.30 Hours on 16.12.2024**
8. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	:-	**Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.**

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar

B-652 OIPR-34033/11/0059/2425

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/33/2024 Dated : 15-11-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Gadag - Hotgi Doubling Project : Balance left over works between Gadag - Wandal Stations (COMPOSITE WORK). **(Tender Ref. No.: HIGA-99)**	Rs. 75,49,11,162/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 09-12-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/585/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

TCED-RDSS-3352/22 & RDSH-7795/22 Dated: 21.11.2024

THRISSUR CORPORATION ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

e-TENDER NOTICE

TCED-RDSS-3352/22 - HT UG Cabling (Last Date 16.12.24)

RDSS-7795/22 - Post Transformers, Substation & LA Numbering (Last Date: 12.12.24)

www.tced.in log on to **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(Sd/-) Assistant Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my clients **1. Sri. Akhil Jain** S/o Jambu Kumar Jain aged about 43 years **2. Smt. Munni Devi Jain** W/o Jambu Kumar Jain aged about 68 years Permanent Resident of No.573, Scheme No.10,Vivek Vihar, Alwar Sub-District Alwar Rajasthan-301001, Presently R/a A3-1001, SNN Raj Serenity, Begur Koppa Main Road, Bengaluru–560 068 intended to purchase the schedule property has entered into an agreement of sale dated 24/10/2024 with its owner **Sri. H. S. Lakshminarayana** S/o H.S. Subraya aged about 51 years R/a #323 Ground Floor, 7th Main, 6th Cross, RBI Layout, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078.

It is hereby informed to the General Public that any person/bank, financial institution etc., having any claim, charge, mortgage, right, title and interest etc., in respect of the schedule property or any part thereof are hereby requested to make the same known to the undersigned in writing supported by document/s within **15 DAYS (Fifteen Days Only)** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim of such person will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned and my client shall proceed to complete the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing vacant site /Plot No. 340/4, old Begur Panchayat Katha No. 218/340/4, BBMP Katha / PID No. 218/340/4 **New E-Katha / ePID No. 6787352456** comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Begur Ward No.192 of Begur Sub-Division measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50 feet totally measuring 1500 square feet situated at Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk which is the piece and parcel of the 3 portion of converted property bearing Sy.No.50/1 of Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Benglauru South Taluk, Bengaluru which are converted from agricultural to nonagricultural purpose vide conversion orders No. BDS/ALN/SR/(S) 153/1995-96 dated 02-03-1996, from the office of Deputy Commissioner Bengaluru urban District Bengaluru No. BDS/ALN/SR/(S)154/1995-96 dated 02-03-1996 from the office of Deputy commissioner Bengaluru urban District Bengaluru and No. BDS/ALN/SR/(S)155/1995-96 dated 02-03-1996 from the office of Deputy Commissioner Bengaluru urban District Bengaluru and bounded on: **East:** Property No.340/3, **West:** Property No.340/5, **North:** Property No.340, **South:** Road.

Sd/- B.S. NATARAJA, Advocate, B.S.N. & Associates, No. 113, 1st Floor, South Wing, Opp. Suguma Tourist, Kurubara Sangha Building, Y. Ramachandra Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore- 560009.

COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CAUVERY BASIN PROJECTS

Executive Engineer, CADA No.2 Division Kalidasa Road. Vijayanagara 1st Stage Mysuru-17

Phone no. :0821-2414090 E-Mail: eecada2mysore@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 10/2024-25 DATED: 19.11.2024 (Through e-procurement only)

On behalf of the Administrator, CADA, CBP, Mysore. The Executive Engineer, CADA No.2 Division CBP. Mysuru has invited Item rate tender in two cover system for the works of "Supplying of 63 mm 1.00 Acre (0.40 Ha) Portable Sprinkler Irrigation System as approved by GOK under H/A 4705 of CADA of Cauvery Basin projects in Mysore and Tumkur for the year 2024-25" amounting to **Rs. 60.14 Lakhs** (including GST) through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1. Tender Documents can be downloaded from: **22.11.2024** onwards
2. Last date and time for submission of tender **09.12.2024 upto 4.00 PM**
3. Date and Time for opening of tender (Technical Bid): **10.12.2024, 4.30 PM** onwards
4. Date and Time for opening of Financial bid: **11.12.2024, 4.30 PM** onwards (After approval of Technical Bid)

For Further details, interested bidders may access bidding documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and contact this office during working hours.

Sd/- Exective Engineer CADA No.2 Division CBP. Mysuru

DIPR/TUM/RO-87/24-25/Oysters

Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department

Office of The Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk, Phone : 080 - 2978 7463, Mobile : 99720 45178, E-mail : eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com

No.: EE/R.D.W.S./B.R./Out Source/Tender/2024-25/739 Date : 20-11-2024

Tender Notification No.: 04/2024-25 Date : 20-11-2024

Tenders are invited on behalf of Governer of Karnataka according to KTPP Act 2000 through KPPP Portal for **Providing Manpower Services to Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division Bangalore Rural District** through Outsourcing. Application & EMD Payment to be done through E-Procurement Portal.

General Conditions : 1) Contractor has to Upload Document in online only, 2) All Qualifying Documents has to be attached in online.

1) Tender Schedule can be downloaded from Website : 21-11-2024, After 4.30 p.m., 2) Pre-Bid Meeting Date : 25-11-2024, 11.00 a.m., (Office of Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Bangalore Rural at Beerasandra, Devanahalli), 3) Last Date for Tender Uploading : 06-12-2024 Upto 4.00 p.m., 4) Date of Opening of Tender / Technical Bid : 07-12-2024 After 4.05 p.m., 5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid : 09-12-2024 After 11.00 a.m.

More details can be taken from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://kppp portal** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.D.W. & S. Division, Bangalore Rural.

DIPR/Bangalore Rural/3336/Manipal/2024-25

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Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878

Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667 Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC-5/DD(Tariff)/2023-24/FTS-1345/Vol.III/960 Date: 20.11.2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission had published the **Draft KERC (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024** in the Karnataka Gazette on 04.11.2024, inviting comments / views / suggestions / objections, if any, on the draft Regulations from the stake holders / interested persons and had also hosted the same on the Commission's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in**

The Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the matter at **12.00 Noon on 06.12.2024 in the 1st Floor, Court Hall of the Commission, #16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052.** Interested persons / stakeholders / public may participate in the "Public Hearing" and make their oral / written submissions before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary

DIPR/CP/3347/2024-25 For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

Office of the Executive Officer

Mysore Palace Board, Mysore Phone: 0821-2421051, Fax: 2434425 E-mail: ddmysoreplace@gmail.com

No.EO/MPB/DD/Civil/Tender-06/2024-25 Date: 19.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Kpp Portal only) Two Cover System

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Deputy Director, Mysore Palace Board, Mysuru Invites the Tender for "Providing Security Guards to Mysore Palace on outsource basis" for total amount of **Rs. 100.00 Lakhs** and "Right to collect parking fees for vehicles parked at the Mysore Palace Parking Area" for total amount of **Rs.145.50 Lakhs** from Eligible Vendors / Bidders / Agencies / Firms who have executed similar type of works in Highly sensitive areas under Central/State Government as per Tender Document in Two Cover System. **a)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only **03/12/2024 upto 4:00 p.m. b)** Time and date of opening of Technical Bid: **04/12/2024 after 4:30 p.m.**

Details regarding the work and tender document may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Any clarification regarding details of the work, or any other aspects of the above tender can be had by contacting the office of the Deputy Director, Mysuru Palace Board, Mysuru during the office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director, Mysore Palace Board, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/RO824/AAPL/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No: 27/SBC/24, Dated: 12.11.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

S.No.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	**Divisional Engineer / South / Bengaluru Section:** Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed track ballast Including leading and loading at Periya Nagathunai (PRNT) depot (33,000 cum) in connection with the work of Bengaluru - Salem Section. Complete Track Renewal (P) of existing 52 kg PSC of 1540 Nos. / km with 60kg / 90 UTS rails and 60 kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 22.0 km from km 23/000-45/000 (SL) in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri Section.	Rs. 2,87,37,060
2	**Bengaluru - Salem section : Sub Work-I:** Slope stabilization by widening of slopes of cuttings from km. 51/940-52/100, 52/550-800, 52/900-53/040 in Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way / Dharmapuri (South) Section. **Sub Work-II:** Slope stabilization by widening of slopes in cuttings from km. 111/000-112/400, 127/630-800, 129/400-130/000 and 137/100-200 in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later. (Two packet system)	Rs. 11,75,55,646
3	**Divisional Engineer / South / Bengaluru Section:** Cess repair / widening work in connection with the work of **(a) Bengaluru - Salem Section:** Complete Track Renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 52kg PSC of 1540 Nos./km with 60 kg/90 UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 15.5 km from km 66/500-72/0 and 77/0-87/00 (SL) in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri section. **(b) Chikbanavara - Hassan:** Through Ballast Recoupment for a length of 110km from km 14/000-124/000 (SL). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,63,04,575
4	**Divisional Engineer / South / Begaluru Section:** Cess repair / widening work in connection with the work of **(a) Bengaluru - Salem Section:** Complete track renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 52kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 22.0 km from km 23/000-45/000 SL in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri section. **(b) Bengaluru - Salem Section:** Complete track renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 52kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 20.2 km from km 45/000-54/000, 55/100-900 and 56/100-66/500 (SL) in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,95,12,450
5	**Sub Work-I: Chikbanavara - Hassan section:** Through Fitting renewal (without ERC) for a length of 40.8 km from 124/000-164/800 (SL). **Sub Work-II: Chikbanavara - Hassan section:** Through Ballast recoupment for a length of 110 km from 14/000-124/000 (SL).	Rs. 4,04,31,068
6	**Bengaluru - Salem section: Sub Work-I:** Complete Track Renewal (P) of existing 52kg PSC of 1540 Nos. / km with 60kg / 90 UTS ralls and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 15.5 km from km 66/500-72/0 and 77/0-87/00 (SL) in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri section. **Sub Work-II:** Complete track renewal (P) of existing 52kg ralls on 52kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS ralls and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 22.0 km from km 23/000-45/000 (SL) in Asst. Divisional Engineer /Dharmapuri section. section. **Sub Work-III:** Complete Track Renewal (P) of existing 52kg ralls on 52 kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 20.2 km from km 45/000-54/000, 55/100-900 and 56/100-66/500 (SL) in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri section.	Rs. 14,74,00,529
7	**Sub Work-I: Bengaluru-Salem section:** Construction of RCC drain 600m in connection with the work of Bengaluru-Salem section: Strengthening of bank by providing standard width and improving drainage at isolated locations from km 68/100 to 143/400 SL for a length of 17.26 km. **Sub Work-II: Bengaluru - Salem section:** Construction of RCC drain 3000m and ballast retaining wall 1900m in connection with the work of Bengaluru-Salem Section: Complete track renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 52kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails and 60 kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 15.5 km from km 66/500-72/0 and 77/0-87/00 (SL) in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri section. Maintenance period is 6 months.	Rs. 4,99,52,832
8	**Chikbanavara - Hassan section : Sub Work-I:** Construction of RCC drain for a length of 2.2 km in scattered locations between km 5/500-55/300 in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Kunigal Section. **Sub Work-II:** Construction of RCC side drain 1000m and ballast retaining wall 1000m in connection with the work of Chikabanavara - Hassan: Through ballast recoupment for a length of 110km from km 14/000-124/000 (SL). Maintenance period is 6 months.	Rs. 2,77,52,343
9	**Sub Work-I: Chikbanavara - Hassan section:** Provision of standard height gauges for 7 RUB No's : 248, 86, 81, 79, 71, 76 and 45 in Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way / Channarayapatna section. **Sub Work-II: Bengaluru - Jolarpettai section:** Provision of height gauges in Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT) yard in connection with Electrification of Road - 10 and top wiring arrangements for Road - 11 and Road - 12 at SGT yard. Maintenance period is 12 months.	Rs. 1,52,01,952
10	**Bengaluru - Salem Section:** Supply, installation, commissioning & maintenance of track mounted Automatic Gauge face lubricators on 39 curves for period of 5 years in Sr. Divisional Engineer / South section - Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way / Dharmapuri (South) section (Service Tender) (2 packet system)	Rs. 4,83,34,034
11	**Bengaluru - Salem Section:** Supply, installation, commissioning & maintenance of track mounted Automatic Gauge face lubricators on 59 curves for period of 5 years in Sr. Divisional Engineer/South section - Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way / Dharmapuri (South) section. (Service Tender) (2 packet system)	Rs. 7,31,20,718
12	**Bengaluru:** Re-construction of pit line 3 at Bengaluru City yard duly dismantling the existing pit line 3 as per CAMTECK design with cat walk. Maintenance period is 4 months.	Rs. 6,47,23,473
13	**Bengaluru City - Mysuru Section:** Extension of FOB at Bidadi (BID) station with extension of booking office. Maintenance period is 4 months.	Rs. 2,28,66,859
14	**Bengaluru - Mysuru Section:** Complete Track Renewal (CTR(P)) of existing 52kg rails with 60kg for a length of 28.30kms from 13/500-30/000 and 31/800 - 43/600 up line in Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way / Karajagi section.	Rs. 8,16,85,294
15	**Bengaluru - Mysuru Section:** Construction of RRM drain and ballast retaining wall 1000m in connection with the work of Complete Track Renewal (CTR(P)) of existing 52kg rails with 60kg for a length of 28.30kms from 13/500-30/000 and 31/800 - 43/600 up line in Sr. Sectional Engineer / P.Way / Karajagi section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 4,85,77,623
16	Providing side pathway for steel girder bridges in Bengaluru Division (64 bridges - 135 spans). Maintenance period is 02 months.	Rs. 3,42,05,566

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 09.12.2024**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/576/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Deadly defiance: Antimicrobial Resistance occurs when pathogens change over time and stop responding to medicines/antimicrobial agents, making infections harder to treat. This increases the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.

More antibiotics, less cure

Hospitals are seeing increasing instances of Antimicrobial Resistance, declared by the UN as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. On the occasion of World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week, observed from November 18-24, **Afshan Yasmeen** looks at the prevalence of AMR and plans to tackle it

Life took a sudden turn for 49-year-old David Thompson from Bengaluru when he was diagnosed with mouth cancer. After a successful surgery at a private hospital in the city, he was optimistic about complete recovery. But two weeks after discharge from hospital, he returned, feverish and weak, with a troubling wound site infection.

The infection was resistant to all antibiotics, one of the increasing instances of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). As he was admitted to the ICU of a private hospital for monitoring, the medical team feared that if the infection spread to his bloodstream, it could become life-threatening. Fortunately, he later stabilised and is now out of the hospital and on the mend.

His treating doctor, Vishal Rao U.S., a surgical oncologist who specialises in head and neck cancer, attributed the patient's antibiotic resistance to indiscriminate/prolonged use of antibiotics and tobacco use. "He must have been using antibiotics for a pretty long time through his early youth before cancer treatment. He also had a history of tobacco use, which is linked to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in several ways. Tobacco users are more likely to receive antibiotics than non-tobacco users. This can lead to increased AMR in the community. Smoking can impair the immune system and defences against infections, thereby promoting the spread of AMR in the lungs," Dr. Rao said.

What is AMR

AMR, declared by the UN as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity, occurs when pathogens change over time and stop responding to medicines/antimicrobial agents, making infections harder to treat. This increases the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. Overexposing pathogens to antimicrobial drugs due to abuse, misuse and/or overuse enables the pathogens to acquire resistance against the drug.

But the case of David Thompson is no longer an aberration. More and more doctors have had to deal with similar cases. So much so that a few hospitals have their own antimicrobial policy advising doctors on the judicious use of antibiotics considering aspects relating to cancer, while Karnataka is framing an Action Plan to Mitigate Antimicrobial Resistance (AMAR), expected to be launched early next year.

Case after case

In another case, M. Govindappa, a 59-year-old Hoskote resident with a history of diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease, was admitted to a local health facility due to a non-healing ulcer. A wound swab revealed the presence of a multidrug-resistant organism. The patient reported having previously used multiple antibiotics at his local facility for treatment.

> The indiscriminate use of antibiotics is a primary factor contributing to the rise of multidrug-resistant organisms.
>
> **KISHAN A.**
> Professor of Nephrology, Institute of Nephro Urology

During therapy with higher antibiotics for his ulcer, there was a decline in his kidney function, which necessitated the commencement of hemodialysis. He has been admitted to the State-run Institute of Nephro Urology (INU) for the last two weeks.

Kishan A., Professor of Nephrology at this government institute, said multidrug resistance limits treatment options to only a few higher antibiotics, and these stronger medications can come with significant systemic side effects, particularly affecting the brain and kidneys.

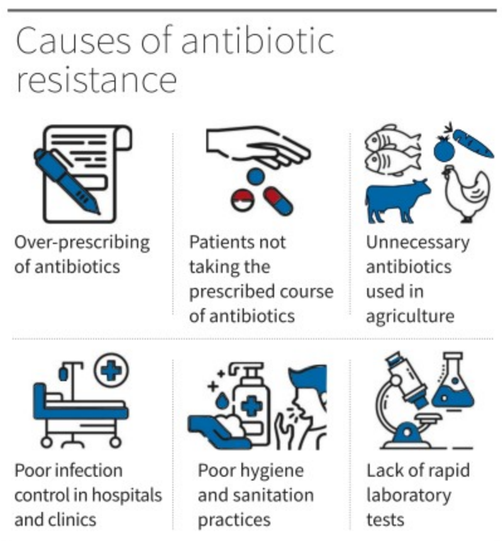
"The indiscriminate use of antibiotics is a primary factor contributing to the rise of multidrug-resistant organisms. We are observing an increasing incidence of multidrug resistance in both community-acquired and hospital-acquired infections," said the doctor.

Ravindra M. Mehta, Chief of Integrated Pulmonology and Critical Care Consultant at a private hospital, is currently treating Lalit Kumar Sahu, a 40-year-old male with a recent brain surgery who has since developed complications. "The phlegm from the lungs has shown the presence of a drug-resistant bug - *Enterobacter cloacae*. The fluid surrounding the lungs was also tested and revealed another virulent organism - Klebsiella pneumoniae, which was resistant to most of the available antibiotics. This bug was later found to have also spread to his bloodstream and became life-threatening with organ failure risk.

"The patient had a dual-hit due to the infection *per se* and the antimicrobial resistance, making treatment extremely difficult," Dr. Mehta explained. It was a long-drawn battle of six weeks before the patient was discharged.

"The incremental risk to life with infection, multidrug resistance and side effects of powerful antibiotics is the 'terrible triad' of modern antimicrobial resistance. COVID-19 brought us together like never before, and AMR is a more powerful threat that needs global cooperation beyond boundaries," said the doctor.

Karnataka is working on tighter regulations and responsible dispensing of drugs. This will ensure antibiotics are dispensed only with valid prescriptions, thereby discouraging over-the-counter medications. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO


Causes of antibiotic resistance
Over-prescribing of antibiotics
Patients not taking the prescribed course of antibiotics
Unnecessary antibiotics used in agriculture
Poor infection control in hospitals and clinics
Poor hygiene and sanitation practices
Lack of rapid laboratory tests

Action plan

The World Health Organisation's (WHO's) Global Action Plan on AMR provides a broad framework for combating AMR to ensure the continuity of successful treatment and prevention of infectious diseases with effective and safe medicines that are quality-assured, used responsibly, and accessible to all who need them.

The Government of India launched the National Action Plan in 2017, adopting a one-health framework that recognised the interconnecting of human, animal and environmental health with six strategic focus areas.

These include improving awareness and understanding of AMR through effective communication, education and training, strengthening knowledge and evidence through surveillance; reducing the incidence of infection through effective infection prevention and control; optimising the use of antimicrobial agents in health, animals and food, promoting investments for AMR activities, research and innovations and strengthening India's leadership on AMR.

Karnataka's plan ahead

In Karnataka, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao declared AMR as a focus area in November 2023. He directed the Department of Health Family Welfare to revive efforts to strengthen the State's capacity to tackle AMR and draft a State action plan that has been pending for six years.

Swetavalli Raghavan, appointed as the advisor on AMR to Karnataka's Health Department, is developing the Action Plan to Mitigate Antimicrobial Resistance (AMAR) in Karnataka, likely to be launched in the first quarter of 2025.

"Self-medication, not completing the prescribed course, and the use of antibiotics for viral infections, against which they are ineffective, are common practices. In India, AMR is among the top five causes of death. The primary objective of the State action plan in the short term would be to reduce antibiotic misuse through heightening awareness, improving infection control measures and promoting best stewardship practices to curb the growing burden of resistant infections," he said.

Simultaneously, the plan will outline a blueprint to build capacity within the State, including the development of digital and physical infrastructure, human resources, and communication networks required to undertake monitoring and surveillance to strengthen preparedness to tackle resistant infection outbreaks in humans and animals, as well as develop responsible leadership at all levels in championing the cause, Dr. Raghavan explained. Asserting the importance of adopting a One Health framework that looks at human, animal and environmental health as being interconnected and interdependent, she said, "Building robust surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial sale, use, disposal and resistance across all sectors is essential to inform ambitious, evidence-based and risk-based targets and interventions to address gaps in response to AMR."

Responsible dispensing

Karnataka is also working on tighter regulations and responsible dispensing of drugs. This will ensure antibiotics are dispensed only with valid prescriptions, thereby discouraging over-the-counter medications.

In August this year, a survey conducted by a research team from St Joseph's University, headed by Dr Raghavan, revealed that nearly 80% of the 108 pharmacies where a "test-purchase" drive was conducted sold antibiotics over-the-counter.

"Out of the remaining 20% who refrained, one out of three did not sell because they did not have stock. Also, over 50% of these 108 pharmacies did not give us a bill until we insisted. A quarter of these were handwritten," Dr. Raghavan said.

"Although the pharmacists were aware that over-the-counter sales in a punishable offence, fear of losing business (as customers can easily purchase the drugs from another pharmacy) and familiarity with the customer (which prompts the pharmacist to maintain trust and relationship with the customer) are among the reasons for them to do so. Besides, lack of easy access to healthcare, which drives customers/patients to seek help from the pharmacist directly and lack of awareness among customers of the legal and health consequences of purchasing and using antimicrobials without a prescription also contribute to this menace," she explained.

Behavioural change

Behavioural change at all levels, from prescribers to patients, is essential to control AMR. Pointing out that over 17,000 pharmacists and pharmacology students have been sensitised to the dangers of AMR through an interactive workshop, Dr. Raghavan said this subset of healthcare professionals, who are often overlooked, can influence public awareness, attitude and behaviour on the use of antimicrobial drugs.

Following this, the Health Minister made a public appeal to responsibly use antibiotics and directed pharmacies to display mandatory warnings within their premises on the purchase/use of antibiotics. A follow-up survey is planned to be conducted in the next quarter, with the aim of understanding the effectiveness of awareness activities.

Following the "test-purchase" drive, cases have been booked against several pharmacies by the State Drugs Control Department for indulging in activities that are contrary to the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, as well as other applicable laws, which are directly contributing to the increase in antimicrobial resistance, the Minister said.

"People should complete the course of antibiotics as prescribed by the doctor and should not use old prescriptions to self-medicate, and this public appeal is part of the display boards. We will soon do a random check to find out if the boards are displayed in all pharmacies," he said.

"The display boards are meant to sensitise people as well as the pharmacies on AMR. It is caused by the widespread misuse of antibiotics in human medicine, agriculture, and veterinary practices and challenges in healthcare infrastructure," he said.

(Names of patients have been changed to protect privacy.)

Cultural medley Snapshots from last year's edition of Unboxing BLR Hubba. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru's big bash returns

Explore 500 events of art, culture, technology, and design across Bengaluru with BLR Hubba 2024

Praveen Sudevan
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Last year, the inaugural Unboxing BLR Hubba set out to establish Bengaluru as a cultural hotspot, drawing inspiration from the iconic Edinburgh Fringe Festival. With over 300 events scattered across the city, it hinted at the city's potential to host a world-class cultural celebration. For V Ravichandar, the festival's chief facilitator however, this was just the beginning.

"I would say we are decades away from reaching the scale of the Fringe," he says. "Edinburgh transforms into a festival hub, hosting over 2,000 daily events across 600 venues. Our challenges as a city are different – potholes, water, and garbage – but our goal is similar: to position Bengaluru as a city worth celebrating on the world map."

This year, BLR Hubba returns from 30 November to 15 December with a bold new vision, offering more curated programming, a wider array of venues, and a commitment to inclusivity.

Taking it to the streets

One of the highlights this year is the Church Street Beautification Project, which will transform the popular promenade into a cultural corridor for the festival. The street will host pop-up performances, installations, and interactive art displays.

Another addition to the Hubba's repertoire is GodeBLR, wherein 10 talented artists and artists groups transform eight pre-identified walls of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) stations and two prominent private walls into murals across the city.

The UnboxingBLR Foundation, which anchors the BLR Hubba, has also been organising free-to-attend art and culture events under the Hubba In Your Park initiative for the last few weekends across the city's public parks.

These street-level initiatives encapsulate the essence of the Hubba: a celebration of the city's unique character. "Think of the Hubba as showcasing the best of Bengaluru – whether it's technology, design, literature, music, dance, or heritage. It's the good news in a city often mired in bad news," says Ravichandar.

Revamped programming

Reflecting on last year's format, Ravichandar acknowledges the need for a stronger identity. "In 2023, 80% of the programming was simply existing events happening in the city. We put a big tent over them and called it the Hubba." This year, the festival .takes charge, with 75% of the events being curated and funded by its organisers.

Freedom Park takes centre stage as the home of Kantha, an Asian music festival, featuring 38 performances over 16 days. "Kantha is the most ambitious programme we've attempted. It's a unique Asian music festival you won't find elsewhere in the country."

Additionally, the festival introduces new venues to Bengaluru's cultural map, including Panchavati, CV Raman's ancestral house in Malleswaram, and Sabha, a 150-year-old restored building near Commercial Street. Both spaces will host arts and culture events for the duration of the Hubba.

On November 30 at 5pm, the Namma Jatre procession will be flagged off from Vidhan Soudha. Celebrating Karnataka's folk and cultural traditions, the procession is expected to stretch over half a kilometre, with the route likely ending at MG Road, Rangoli, or Rangasthala.

With over 500 events across 40 locations, the Hubba offers something for everyone, whether in the city centre or the suburbs.

For everyone, everywhere

Its inclusivity is reflected in the 'Gala Gala Gaddala' Kannada programming, which features Kuvempu Ramayana readings in parks across Bengaluru. "Because it's Kuvempu's 120th year, we wanted to highlight his work in public spaces where everyone can access it."

The organisers have also prioritised accessibility by making 350 events free to attend. "Whether you're a vegetable vendor or a cab driver, you can enjoy the Hubba without spending a rupee."

Inclusivity extends to communication as well. A thousand cab and auto drivers have been recruited to spread the word about the festival within their communities and to passengers. "It's a long process, but we're determined to reach every corner of Bengaluru."

For Ravichandar, BLR Hubba is about more than just arts and culture – it is about strengthening the city's soft infrastructure. "Fixing hard infrastructure like roads and drainage is a monumental task. But creating public spaces and experiences that bring people together? That's doable, and that's what the Hubba is about."

For more information about the events, schedule, and tickets, visit blrhubba.in

Back to form

Kannada actor Milana Nagaraj opens up on returning to work after giving birth and her evolution as an actor

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Looking forward Milana Nagaraj (below), a still from *Aaram Aravindaswamy*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I am a confident person," asserts Milana Nagaraj when asked if she had doubts about the fate of her career during her pregnancy break. Milana denies having uncertain thoughts about her journey ahead.

"Even if I wasn't trained in acting, I wasn't afraid to face the camera when I made my debut. I have always been upbeat about life. It's been only two months since I delivered, and people can't believe I am already promoting my next film. Perhaps it's because of my discipline, which comes from being a sportsperson," says the actor, a former national-level swimmer.

"I put on some weight during my pregnancy and knew it was natural. I told myself I would be my usual self soon after the delivery. I have surprised myself with how quickly I am back doing film-related activities," she adds.

Milana calls herself an "active person" and admits passing time when she was pregnant was tricky. "Be it any day, I can't process the fact that I have nothing to do. I stopped going to theatres and there were no shoots. After six months, I travelled to Bali, Indonesia, and it was a good break. I spent the rest of the time reading and watching films. I managed to stay in touch with films by dubbing for *Aaram Aravindaswamy,* and during the initial days of my pregnancy, I promoted *For Regn*. So somehow, I was involved in work."

Milana stars opposite Aniissh Tejeshwar in *Aaram Aravindaswamy,* the Kannada relationship drama that hits screens on November 22. Having struck a hit chemistry with actor and husband Darling Krishna with films such as *Love Mocktail*, *Love Mocktail 2,* and *Kausalya Supraja Rama,* Milana feels it was time she was part of a fresh combination. "One actor I admire the most in this aspect is Samantha Ruth Prabhu; her chemistry with any hero has been so convincing. I am sure she puts in a lot of effort to bring that on screen, and I want to do that as well."

Milana points out how hard it is to find meaty roles in the Kannada film industry. She broke through with fine performances in the romantic comedies *Love Mocktail* and *Love Mocktail 2.* However, the films that followed failed to impress audiences.

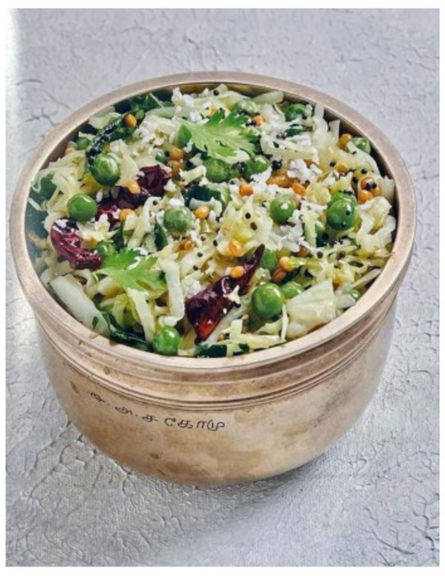
"I want to be in movies where female characters drive the story forward. I love films such as *Jab We Met*, *Raazi* and *Bommarillu*. Unfortunately, once you make a mark in a certain role, directors approach you with similar roles."

"More than knowing what to do, I have learnt what not to do on screen. I believe in being subtle as a performer. It has worked for me so far. I don't personally enjoy over-the-top acting."

Milana and Krishna are a power couple in the Kannada film industry. Apart from acting together, the couple wrote and produced the *Love Mocktail* films. Krishna directed both movies. "It's about balancing individual careers."

"People ask me if Krishna and I argue. The only time we do is when we are making a film together. With time, we have learnt to reach a middle ground. It helps that Krishna gets his planning right most of the time," she says with a smile.

Pure Vegetarian by Prema Srinivasan is a timeless guide to South Indian vegetarian cuisine, blending traditional recipes, personal anecdotes, and invaluable culinary insights



Culinary legacy Prema Srinivasan and her creations of cabbage and peas poriyal and sweet puttu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The world of pure vegetarian cooking

Ananyaa Desikan
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Every time I visited my father's hometown, Kumbakonam, as a child, he would take me to spots that would take him to his childhood – where his grandmother prepared elai vadam or where he enjoyed a steaming tumbler of filter kaapi. The second edition of the late Prema Srinivasan's *Pure Vegetarian* brought back those memories.

Prema Srinivasan's *Pure Vegetarian* delves into traditional South Indian recipes, with a particular focus on the culinary practices of a Vaishnavite kitchen. Spanning 384 pages, this book is a beginner-friendly guide to vegetarian cooking.

Prema's detailed notes on different types of vessels and their uses are enlightening. It is surprising to note that adai was not traditionally made on a dosa tawa but on a specific shallow, concave girdle called adai madukku. The evolution of Indian cookers is equally fascinating and has been documented.

Besides the right equipment, accurate measurements can make or break a recipe. Prema begins her discussion on measurements with the example of author Champalakshmi Ammal from Srirangam, whose cookbook uses measures like pinches, finger lengths, and fistfuls. However, she also provides a comprehensive conversion chart that translates grams and kilograms into spoons and cups.

The recipes in the book begin on page 35, starting with offerings served in temples across India. It features 22 recipes, including akkara adisil from Srivilliputhur inspired by Andal's verses, Kanchipuram idli made in baskets, and peda from the Puri Jagannath temple. Two distinct puliodharai recipes have also been included – one from the Parthasarathy temple in Triplicane, Chennai and another from the Tiru Narayana temple in Melkote, Karnataka.

This encyclopaedic cookbook features over 100 recipes, complemented by aesthetic yet simple food photography and notes about the author's friends and family who contributed their recipes. It offers a diverse range of dishes, from bisi bele bath and ellorai (sesame seed rice) to salad, dal, gojju, kuzhambu, rasam, sweets, and tiffin.

Recipes from other regions of India, such as til pitha from Assam, madra from Himachal Pradesh, and pazhutha pavakkai thokku (ripe bitter gourd chutney) from Kongunadu, are also included. Notably, none of the recipes uses onion or garlic, and the book provides ingredient substitution suggestions and pairing notes.

The final recipe is South Indian filter coffee – unlike the usual milk-and-decoction version, this recipe incorporates cardamom and rose water.

Originally published in 2013, this edition has been released by Harper Collins. Pure Vegetarian is priced at ₹1,299.

STEPOUT

Jazz it up

Garcia-Fons will perform at Windmills, Whitefield on November 22 and 23. The artiste will present a unique fusion of jazz and world music. He will be joined by Dee Byrne (alto saxophone | electronics), Simon Petermann (trombone | electronics), Oli Kuster (keys | electronics), bassist Seth Bennett and drummer Johnny Hunter.
From 9.30pm, tickets can be booked on windmills-india.com.

Play time

The Kannada historical/musical play *Dharmanati* will be staged at Ranga Shankara on November 23 at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Based on Siddhalinga Pattanshetty's *Suryastadinda Suryodayadavarege,* the play is produced by Rangaratha - Indian Performing Arts Company and directed by Aasif Kshathriya and Shwetha Shrinivas.
Tickets at the venue.

Our world at a glance This year's edition of ALTEFF is an evolved, all-compassing offering. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Field notes on camera

This year, All Living Things Environmental Film Festival is taking films to rural India apart from international screenings

Nidhi Adlakha
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Ever since the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF) launched as a digital-only event five years ago, it has come a long way. This year's edition not only continues to take climate-forward stories to the fore, but has several firsts as a part of its schedule.

ALT EFF 2024 will be hosting 110-plus screenings across 20 states, between November 22 and December 8, and over 700 screenings will be held in schools across India. Festival director Kunal Khanna, says, "We are launching ALT EFF Voices, which is a new spoken word platform dedicated to the environment, and selected speakers will deliver their spoken word during the festival alongside film screenings."

The festival – that has been in the works for the last seven months – also goes international this year with screenings planned in Costa Rica, Nepal, Chile, USA, Ireland and Australia. Closer home, films will reach the Andamans (in partnership with Dakshin Foundation), Srinagar (in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Fund), rural Odisha (in partnership with Gram Vikas) and Tilonia and Singla (Rajasthan) in partnership with Barefoot College in the Northeast, among others.

Kunal explains how the 72-film programme at ALT EFF 2024 highlights "the rapidly changing world we live in and our impact on the same". Broadly, the films are themed on Our Fellow Earthlings, Reflections in a Changing World, Women-led Narratives, Forced to Adapt, among others.

"As we continue to experience the consequences of climate collapse, biodiversity loss, and a breakdown of the planetary systems, filmmakers, and storytellers are increasingly making these subjects a part of the tales they chose to tell," says Kunal.

In the India line-up, documentaries include Ishani K Dutta's *Jamna - The River Story*, a 38-minute film narrated by a local boatman, that takes an in-depth look at how historical neglect and current mismanagement have contributed to the river Yamuna's decline; *Stubble - The Farmer's Bane* by Shaz Syed that explores the severe air pollution crisis in northern India, particularly in Punjab, caused by stubble burning, among others.

Another new category launching this year is Environmental Journalism. Kunal says this was introduced to "highlight, encourage and recognise the high calibre of environmental journalism films". He says these films have an arc that is investigative; the team received 31 submissions in this category and the final programme comprises eight films, including *Camels Of The Sea*, *In Search Of Grass*, among others from India.

International features comprise Palestinian film *Foragers* by Jumana Manna on the practice of foraging for wild edible plants in the region; Lutz Stautner's German short film *Crying Glacier* where sound artist Ludwig Berger embarks on a journey to the Morteratsch Glacier in the Swiss Alps, and captures the profound sounds of a glacier in distress; among several others.

ALTEFF 2024 will be held from November 22 to December 8. For details, visit alteff.in/

This lobster has a gold hat

European flavours get a luxury twist at the newly launched Cajsa

Straightforward and stylish Cajsa adds a new spin to the known. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shonali Muthalaly
shonali.m@thehindu.co.in

It is eight hours to showtime. And 12 chefs are at work in one compact kitchen.

In the middle of it all, like the conductor of an orchestra, stands Chef Shubham Shinh, the head chef at Cajsa. Set at ITC Gardenia, Cajsa, which means pure in Greek, aims to put a fresh spin on global flavours, presenting their culinary gymnastics in the form of three tasting menus, with seven, nine, and 11 courses.

Cajsa's food is a complex web of European techniques, with a nod to molecular gastronomy and an occasional tribute to Bengaluru, its home town.

We try the nine-course tasting menu, and Executive chef of ITC Gardenia, Anuj Sood, explains that they aim to innovate with classical flavours, all the while keeping the food familiar.

For example, lobster from Kerala is sautéed in butter, after which it is immersed in a rich sauce and Bengal's aromatic *kasundi* mustard. Served with a drizzle of herb oil and topped with gold leaf, it is deeply comforting.

A spin on British fish and chips has sea bass served on butter paper made to look like a newspaper, and finished with a vinegar spray. While the dish looks simple, it involves multiple culinary techniques.

Similarly, the over-processed Cajsa Bloody Mary, clarified to a clear drink puddled with basil, misses the punch of a traditional cocktail. Classics are classics for a reason. Changes must be made judiciously, not for the sake of adding fancy techniques.

Desserts are imaginative, and Cajsa, with its soothing beige decor, aims to highlight flavour.

Cajsa is at ITC Gardenia, 1, Residency Road, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru. Call 080-47665600 for reservations. Open for dinner only, and diners can opt for seven, nine, and 11 courses priced at ₹2,500, ₹3,000, and ₹3,500 respectively (without taxes).

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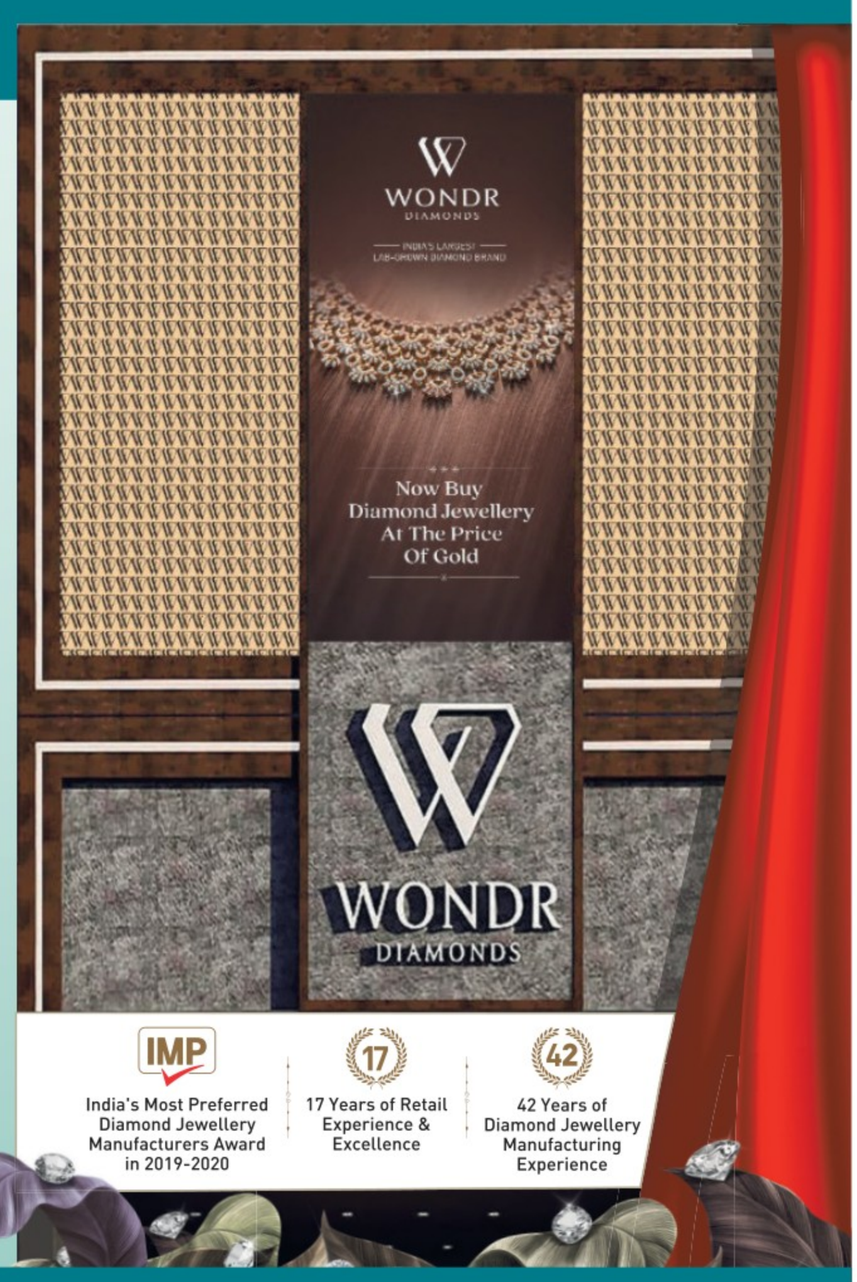

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Only 1.02 lakh BPL cards of govt. staff, taxpayers 'modified': Minister

Verification was done and ineligible BPL cards were brought into APL category as per Centre's guidelines, says Muniyappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Thursday said that only 1.02 lakh below the poverty line (BPL) cards held by government employees and taxpayers had been "modified" as above the poverty line (APL) cards, contrary to the claims of the Opposition BJP which has launched a protest against what they called "massive cancellation of cards of poor people".

Addressing presspersons here on Thursday, Mr. Muniyappa said except for the 1.02 lakh cards (held by government employees and those who file income tax), all other BPL cards would be reissued if there were any erroneous cancellations.

Reaching out: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok interacting with people who hold BPL ration cards at Arasu Colony in Jayanagar, Bengaluru, on Thursday.

Category-wise

"Of the 1.02 lakh, as many as 4,036 are government employees and 98,473 taxpayers, according to HRMS and I-T records. As many as 59,370 BPL card holders have been moved to the APL category and 16,806 BPL cards have been retained. Only 8,647 cards have been cancelled. Verification of 17,710 cards is pending. This includes 17,507 cards held by the 98,473 taxpayers," the Minister said.

"The Chief Minister has ordered that except for government employees and those who file I-T returns, no other BPL cards should be cancelled. The State government is not cancelling any BPL card. They were temporarily suspended," the Minister said.

Asserting that re-verification would be done if there are any errors and free rice would be given to eligible families whose BPL cards were cancelled in the next one week, the Minister said people need not submit any applications for getting their cards reissued. "You will get your PDS supply from the same fair price shops after a week," he said. "We have learnt through the media that some cards of daily wagers and the poor have been cancelled. This could have happened due to oversight following the misreading of penalty payments attached to PAN cards as I-T returns by the data and technical staff. This confusion is being sorted out and all such suspended BPL cards, except those held by government employees and taxpayers, will be reissued."

Defending the State government's move, he said, verification was done and ineligible BPL cards were converted into the APL category as per the Central government's guidelines.

"The National Food Security Act provides for issuing 75% BPL cards in rural areas and 50% in urban areas. As per this, only 4.01 crore beneficiaries are eligible for BPL benefits in Karnataka. But, the State now has 4.34 crore beneficiaries from 1.24 crore families under the BPL category, which means the State has 65.96% BPL card holders," he said.

While Kerala has 45.59% BPL families, Tamil Nadu has 48.81%, Telangana 53.93%, Andhra Pradesh 63.79% and Maharashtra has 58.47%. "The State with the second highest economic growth in the country cannot have 65.96% BPL families," he said.

"While we have stopped the process now, the government will have to go for a scientific review of the ration cards at some point. To prevent mistakes by officials, the local revenue officials should physically verify each BPL card before deciding that it is ineligible. If more than 10 cards are found to be ineligible in any village, the taluk-level officials should verify it," he siad.

'Centre has cancelled 5.8 crore BPL cards'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Thursday said the Centre had overall cancelled 5.8 crore BPL cards in the country. "What moral right does the BJP has to question us?" he asked.

Stating that the BJP should not politicise all issues, the Minister said there was no dearth of funds for the Anna Bhagya scheme. "Let the BJP first question the Centre," he said.

Mr. Muniyappa reminded that the food security law was introduced during the Manmohan Singh government in 2013 to protect poor citizens' interests, which the BJP had then opposed. He criticised the BJP for previously reducing foodgrain allocation from 7 kg to 5 kg per beneficiary during B.S. Yediyurappa's tenure.

Siddaramaiah requests Nirmala to enhance NABARD funding for State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Thursday and urged her to take immediate steps to enhance Karnataka's allocation of short-term credit limit for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (ST-SAO) at concessional rate of interest by NABARD for 2024-25. The credit limit for Karnataka has been slashed by 58% when compared with last year.

Requisition: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Delhi on Thursday. Ministers N. Cheluvarayaswamy and Byarathi Suresh accompanied him.

Target set

The Chief Minister brought to the Union Minister's notice that the Karnataka government had set a target of disbursing short-term agricultural loans of ₹25,000 crore to 35 lakh farmers for 2024-25, which would be in jeopardy if credit limit was not enhanced.

For 2023-24, NABARD had sanctioned SAO concessional limit of ₹5,600 crore. For 2024-25, as against the applied limit of ₹9,162 crore, NABARD has sanctioned SAO concessional agricultural loan limit of only ₹2,340 crore, which is 58% less when compared with last year.

"Through the short-term cooperative credit structure, during 2023-24, short-term agricultural loans of ₹22,902 crore have been disbursed in the State. The Karnataka State Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. has requested and sent a proposal to NABARD to sanction SAO limit of ₹9,162 crore for 2024-25 on behalf of the Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure," he said in a requisition submitted to Ms. Sitharaman.

Reason cited

"NABARD has told us that the reason for the reduced limit this year is because the RBI has allocated less under the general line of credit," he pointed out in the requisition.

He said Karnataka had received very good monsoon rains and the farmers were demanding enhanced disbursement of SAO loans for their agricultural operations. "The drastic reduction in sanctioning the SAO loan limit to Karnataka will drastically hamper the disbursement of short-term agricultural operation loans in the State for 2024-25. In view of above facts, please direct NABARD and RBI to enhance short-term agricultural loan limit for 2024-25 in the interest of farmers, and ensure normal foodgrains production in Karnataka," the letter stated.

Mr. Siddaramaiah was accompanied by State Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, Urban Development and Town Planning Minister Byarathi Suresh and his political secretary K. Govindaraj.

State protection sought for 210 more monuments

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage (DAMH) has recommended 210 additional monuments in Karnataka to be notified as protected, in a major boost to conservation and heritage.

At present, there are 848 monuments protected by the Karnataka Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1961, and with the new additions, the total number of State-protected monuments will increase to 1,058. This is in addition to 609 monuments of national importance protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Addition to list: The Rosary Church at Shettihalli in Hassan district is among the monuments that have been recommended to be notified as protected. FILE PHOTO

WORLD HERITAGE WEEK 2024

To get higher priority

Once declared and notified as protected under the KAMASR Act, the monuments will receive higher priority in conservation and maintenance. A. Devaraj, Commissioner, DAMH, told *The Hindu* that out of 210 monuments identified, a list of 49 monuments has already been submitted to the government for notification as State-protected monuments.

With respect to the remaining monuments, the Revenue Department is expected to provide details, including the extent of land, demarcated boundary, and the current usage pattern apart from ownership. These monuments were identified following a survey covering all the districts. It is for the first time in many decades that the inventory of protected monuments is set for an upward revision.

The survey entailed 3D scanning of the monuments and was taken up under the Karnataka Digital Heritage Project and the work was completed by the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology.

Monuments have been identified in Mysuru, Bengaluru, Belagavi, Hampi, and Kalaburagi divisions.

Some of the monuments included in the list are Arakeshwara temple and Holenarasimhaswamy temple at Sosale in T. Narsipur taluk, Sri Janardhana temple in Talakadu (in Mysuru district), and Rosary Church at Shettihalli in Hassan while Lakkundi, known for some of the best-preserved temples of the Chalukya era and dating back to the 10th century CE, will have 13 new additions to the list of protected monuments.

Apart from temples, hero stones, neolithic age burial sites, and kalyanis or stepwells are also on the list that will be protected under the KAMASR Act.

KMF makes foray into Delhi-NCR market

Chief Minister launches Nandini products in the national capital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday launched the Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) Nandini brand milk products for the Delhi-NCR market. The rates of the products have been fixed marginally lower than that of competitors such as Mother Dairy and Amul in the national capital.

After launching the products, the Chief Minister said Karnataka ranks second in milk production in the country after Gujarat. "We have surplus milk in the State. The KMF along with Mandya Milk Union will market the surplus milk of around four lakh litres per day in Delhi-NCR," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Acknowledging the challenges of transporting milk over 2,500 km, which takes 50-54 hours, the Chief Minister said, "There are a total of 16 milk unions in the State and nearly one crore litres of milk is produced in Karnataka. While 2.5 lakh litres of milk is supplied daily to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra each, we have planned to supply 2.5 lakh litres of milk to New Delhi in the initial stage. Our target is to increase this supply to five lakh litres within six months."

He said the incentive for milk producers in Karnataka was increased to ₹5 per litre after he took over as Chief Minister. "This is the highest incentive paid to milk producers so far. During former Chief Minister B.S Yediyurappa's tenure, the incentive was ₹2, then it became ₹3. Our government is spending ₹5 crore every day on the incentives," he said.

Recalling his tenure as Animal Husbandry Minister and KMF chairman in the past, the Chief Minister said his efforts focussed on protecting milk producers from exploitation.

The KMF will retail four cow milk variants, curd, and buttermilk from Friday. While cow milk will be sold at ₹56 per litre, full cream milk at ₹67 per litre, standardised milk at ₹61 per litre, toned milk at ₹55 per litre, and curd at ₹74 per kg.

KMF chairman L.B.P. Bheema Naik said that milk quality would be maintained during transit. The federation has partnered with 40 dealers in the Delhi-NCR region to facilitate sales, he said.

HC stays 2023 notification authorising auqaf board to issue marriage certificate to Muslims

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday kept in abeyance the State government's August 30, 2023, notification of authorising the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf and its wakf officers in the districts to issue marriage certificates to married Muslim applicants.

The court also restrained the officers of the auqaf board from issuing marriage certificates based on this notification.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind passed the interim order on the petition filed by A. Alam Pasha, founder of the NGO, The Helping Citizen and People's Court, Bengaluru. The interim order will be in force till January 7, 2025.

The petitioner had contended that the notification is beyond the legislative mandate of the wakf Act, 1995, and the marriages of any community can be registered only under the Karnataka Marriages (Registration and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

"Any careful reading of the provisions of Section 32 of the wakf Act in no manner provides that the auqaf board or its officers would be said to be invested with powers to issue marriage certificates," the Bench observed in its order.

The Bench adjourned further hearing on the petition till January 7, 2025, after ordering the issue of notice to the board as the government said that the notifications were issued on the board's requests.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH
6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW

No. : ME-3/2024/2646 Lucknow : Dated 21 November, 2024

TIME SCHEDULE FOR THE SPECIAL STRAY VACANCY ROUND OF ONLINE COUNSELING FOR UP NEET UG-2024

The time schedule for the Special Stray Vacancy round of online counseling for admission to undergraduate courses (MBBS/BDS) of government/private medical/dental colleges/ institutions/medical universities of the state under UP NEET UG-2024 is as follows :-

S.N.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of online registration & upload of documents	22nd November 2024 (From 11:00 AM) to 25th November 2024 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 Days
2	Date of deposition of registration & security money	22nd November 2024 (From 11:00 AM) to 25th November 2024 (Till 2:00 PM)	04 Days
3	Date of merit list declaration	25th November 2024	01 Day
4	Date of online choice filling	26th November 2024 (From 11:00 AM) to 28th November 2024 (Till 5:00 PM)	03 Days
5	Date of allotment result declaration	29th November 2024	01 Day
6	Date of downloading the allotment letters & Admission	30th November 2024, and 02nd December to 05th December 2024	05 Days

- Candidates who have registered in the Stray Vacancy Round are not required to register again in the Special Stray Vacancy Round.
- Such candidates who had registered in the Stray Vacancy Round but due to some reasons could not deposit the registration fee and security money. They can participate in the Special Stray Round by depositing the registration fee and security amount within the stipulated date.
- Those candidates who have not been allotted any seat in the first round, second round, third round and stray vacancy round can participate in the special stray vacancy round.
- Apart from the above, all eligible candidates can register by depositing online registration fee of Rs.1000/- (Rs. one thousand only).
- Only those candidates who have not been allotted any seat in any cycle of UP NEET UG 2024 are eligible for the Special Stray Vacancy Round.
- Candidates appearing for the first, second, third cycle and Stray Vacancy Round of UP NEET UG 2024 are not eligible for the Special Stray Vacancy Round.
- Candidates should assess their eligibility themselves as per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET UG 2024.

Help Line Numbers : 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700

DGME

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Health Officer (West), Bhashyam Park,
Sampige Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.

No: ZC(W)PR/1249/2024-25 Date: 21-11-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BBMP Zonal Health Officer (WEST Zone) invites Proposals through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Two Cover System) from eligible KSPCB AUTHORISED Common bio medical waste treatment facilities (CBMWTF'S) for the following work:1) Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Bio-medical waste generated in BBMP Primary Health Care Centers and Namma Clinics of West Zone.

Following are the Events of Bid Process: (2) Date of commencement of download of document from e-Procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **22.11.2024 onwards. (3)** Last date and time for uploading Online queries in e-Procurement: **29.11.2024 upto 5.30 p.m. (4)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting: **02.12.2024 at 11.00 a.m.** at Meeting Hall, Joint Commissioner Office (West), Bhashyam Park, Sampige Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020. **(5)** Last date and time for uploading tenders in e-Portal : **21.12.2024 upto 5.00 p.m.** (6) Date and time of Opening technical bid in e-Portal: **24.12.2024 at 11.00 a.m.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Health Officer (West)
BBMP

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
KEONJHAR (R&B) CIRCLE, KEONJHAR
No. 5418 /Date. 18.11.2024
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No CCEKC-22/2024-25

The following changes are made to the works invited vide Bid Identification No CCEKC - 22/2024-25 vide Letter No.4842 dt. 21.10.2024.

1. The bid documents in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** will be available in the web site from **11.00 Hours of 28.11.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 12.12.2024** for online bidding.
2. Bids shall be received only on "online" on or before **16.00 Hours of 12.12.2024.**
3. Bids received **"on-line"** shall be **opened at 11.30 Hours on 13.12.2024** in the office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
4. If the office happens to be closed on the stipulated date of opening of Bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

All other terms & conditions remained unchanged.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer,
Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar

B-654 OIPR-34033/11/0058/2425

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Bringing together many networks of the city

Network is not just about telephone lines or the Internet. A walk in Cubbon Park, designed by an artist and fungiculturist, unravelled many layers of it

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

From stitching networks to looking at lichens, 'Writing Telegrams to Fungi, and Sending Bytes across Trees' walk offered its audience insights into various networks of the fungi world. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cables tinsel the ruins of the Central Telegraph Office in Bengaluru, skimming past its worn walls and shuttered windows before losing themselves in the dense foliage of an adjoining ficus tree with heart-shaped leaves softly fluttering in a mild afternoon breeze.

"Follow any cable with your pen," says multi-disciplinary Berlin-based designer and artist Iz Paehr, who is co-leading a network walk at Cubbon Park titled "Writing Telegrams to Fungi, Sending Bytes across Trees" along with Bengaluru-based artist and fungiculturist, Biplab Mahato.

Unfurling the zine handed to us at the start of the walk, we use brightly-coloured markers to draw squiggly cables across the page, starting from a sepia-toned vintage photograph of the telegraph office. Iz, who goes by the pronouns they/them, explains, "This building is still standing, though it shut down in 2013," they say, pointing out that telegraphy, which started in Bengaluru in 1854, was an instrument of colonial power and control. "The British colonised lands via telegraph cables, something known as the All Red Line."

Connections

More such titbits of information emerged over the two-hour-long walk that started at the telegraph office, went into Cubbon Park and ended at the Art in Transit studio at the Cubbon Park metro station.

On this walk, participants attempted to trace networks of all sorts, "from digital devices that connect (some of) us to global communication structures, to the fine threads of mycorrhizal networks—networks comprising fungi and plants in a symbiotic relationship—that interconnect the very trees that in turn hold internet cables," as the event's release states.

Whether it be how the internet is transmitted by fibre optic cables running through the world's oceans, the importance of mycorrhizal networks for optimal ecosystem functioning or how the internet infrastructure continues to be skewed towards the global North, the layered, nuanced nature of these networks were constantly reinforced during the event, both by knowledge sharing and through a series of activities."

"I think there are some connections between the world wide web and what is sometimes called the 'wood wide web', a metaphor used to describe how mycelium (the root-like part of a fungus with its branched, tubular filaments) helps nutrients to pass between trees," says Iz, who is deeply concerned with questions of material, touch, access and infrastructure. "Because the metaphor is so present, it became a way of bridging these networks, not to equate them but of thinking of them next to each other and seeing how they differ."

How the idea emerged

The idea for the walk stemmed from a conversation between Biplab and Iz that took place sometime in October. Iz, whose bio describes them as an interdisciplinary designer in love with disability access, internet infrastructure, and the subversive potential of play, arrived in India that month for a residency programme called bangaloREsidency@The Archives at NCBS (National Centre for Biological Sciences). As part of this programme, which has been conceived as a long-term collaboration between the Goethe-Institut /Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore and various cultural spaces and partner institutions in the city, Iz chose to work at the Archives at NCBS, examining metaphors and materials of networks, one of their key focus areas.

"I was invited to the residency's orientation, where we had the opportunity to interact with all the artists and explore possibilities for collaboration," recalls Biplab, the founder of Shroomin', an urban mushroom farm. As someone passionate about fungi, he is deeply fascinated by the concept of mycorrhizal networks—the way fungal hyphae facilitate inter-plant connections. "I found Iz's work closely connected to this world," he says, drawing again on the idea that the densely networked internet shares similarities with the 'wood wide web.' "Iz's past works also focus on plant networks," he adds.

After several discussions, they decided to collaborate, quickly realising "that we wanted to do a hands-on kind of workshop or walk to invite people to experience these concepts that we are talking about and researching in a quite direct and haptic way," says Iz, pointing out that internet infrastructure is often understood as a far-away, immaterial thing not something one can actually touch.

Similarly, while people know about mushrooms, the fruiting body of mycelium, they aren't aware of the underlying vegetative structure made up of thread-like hyphae, they say. "That's why we thought a walk situated in Cubbon Park, which brings together so many of these networks, would be interesting."

Sticky networks

On Friday, November 22, an exhibition titled *Sticky Networks* will be held at the Archives at NCBS, showcasing some aspects of the walk and other pieces of work Iz created during the residency. Additionally, Biplab will showcase spore bags and mycelium plates at the exhibition – items most people have likely never seen.

"We largely think of fungi as something that spoils food left outside," he explains, emphasising that the communication networks created by these organisms are still relatively unknown. The mycorrhizal network, composed of tiny mycelium filaments, decomposes organic matter and returns essential minerals to the roots of trees and plants. "They're the end but also the beginning because they give life back," says Biplab.

Iz says that the term sticky in *Sticky Networks* relates back to the gutta-percha tree, a latex-secreting plant native to Southeast Asia. "This latex was used to insulate telegraph cables for the global telegraph network, a process that British colonisers largely initiated," they say, adding that the telegraph network was only made possible because of that tree sap. However, the exploitation of the tree for latex almost brought it to extinction. "So, the metaphor for stickiness came to me quite early in the process."

Even the telegraph system, which laid the foundation for modern communications systems, makes its presence felt today. For instance, when it comes to distribution, submarine cable maps often resemble old telegraph maps, reinforcing the same biases in infrastructure communications. "99% of internet traffic traverses through submarine cables, which are distributed across the globe, but they are not done in an equitable way as the landing stations are predominantly above the equator, in the global North", says Iz. "Some things still stick around that we can't quite get rid of or away from quite yet."

Iz says that a large part of their research occurred in the Archives, where they stumbled across actual telegrams. "At the Archives at NCBS, I looked at telegrams, their visual language, what they look and feel like, when were they sent, often when someone died, or there was a birth... for important occasions." They also spoke to historians of science and travelled into the city to physically examine sites like the old telegraph office. "I've done a lot of walks through different streets to find cables, as well as to see how birds, bats, and ants interact with them in the trees that hold the cables," they say. "I think these connections between different kinds of networks, like the tree network that literally holds the internet network... all of that really piqued my interest."

The final outcome of this residency is a website artwork where different stories relating to networks will be projected at the Sticky Networks exhibition at the Archives "so people visiting the exhibition will experience this website and the different stories that it holds," says Iz. There will also be a few physical pieces, including a fabric work printed with a Google Maps screenshot of two streets in India that Iz walked through to sketch the internet cables that they could see. "I've embroidered them on top of that fabric," they say.

Additionally, some exhibits inspired by the walk will also be showcased, including a lichen collection and a hotspot constellation. "I think in the park, we did all that in a very participatory way and now are turning the works into installations for the exhibition," says Iz. "I hope, through the metaphor of stickiness and haptic clarity of everything, people can still get in touch with it."

Sticky Networks will be showcased at the Archives at NCBS on Friday, November 22, 2024, between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m.

ALT EFF 2024: Two Karnataka films take centre stage at the festival

The films at the festival are designed to change consumer habits and choices, and give an idea of tangible solutions toward climate crisis

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

A scene from the film Gopi directed by Nishanth Gurumurthy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The festival is designed to create environmental awareness through films. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF) 2024, a platform dedicated to raising awareness about environmental issues, is set to take place from November 22 to December 8 across India. Launched in 2020, the festival promotes environmental awareness through films, showcasing over 50 national and international works focused on climate change.

The festival in Bengaluru is happening at various locations, including ATREE in Jakkur, Bangalore Creative Circus in Yeshwantpur, Courtyard Koota in Kengeri, and Medai the Stage in Koramangala. The festival will also take place in various cities across Karnataka including Tumakuru, Ramanagara, Mandya, Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Hassan, Chitradurga, Davangere, Chamarajanagar and Mysuru.

Consumer habit

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Anaka Kaundinya, programming director at ALT EFF, said that the festival has a mix of films that are very informative. "These films can really change consumer habits and choices, and give you an idea of tangible solutions toward climate crisis. This year we have got very cratively told films from some well established filmmakers."

The festival will this time feature two films that are very relevant to Karnataka, a feature film called *A Flaming Forest* and a short film called *Gopi*. *A Flaming Forest* is based on the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve in Karnataka that is home to the Soliga adivasis. "The film talks about why custodians of the land should take care of the forest," explains Anaka.

Directed by Salman Javeed, Satya Ambasta, Vivek Sangwan, according to the description of the film, it traverses the rich tapestry of the BRT forest and the intricate relationships that the Soligas hold with it. It traces the effects of exclusionary conservation policy, which has led to large scale evictions and denial of rights for Soligas since 1974. "Soliga resistance to these changes has stretched across five decades. Their articulations challenge dominant approaches of a conservation model that relies on forced evictions, and emphasises their customary and legal rights to the forest. The film is a culmination of a two-decade long collaboration between researchers and filmmakers."

Siddi community

Gopi, a short film directed by Bengaluru-based film and ad maker Nishanth Gurumurthy, is based on the life of a middle-aged storyteller who identifies herself with the Siddi community. The film elaborates on how she lives many lives through her stories, as she reflects and contemplates the idea of her identity, emerging from ancestral displacement. She believes that her stories emotionally appeal to her audience. It also fuels her ambition to get her stories self-published. Gopi's journey as a tribal woman in India threads her connection with nature and its elements in many ways. But as nature is relatively unpredictable, it ultimately becomes a source that forces Gopi to confront the reality of her life. Nishanth says that the film started out as a research for his feature film when he was visiting a forest area an hour away from Gokarna. "Gopi was my guide in the forest area. We started talking, and I decided to research about her life. She is a single mother, a story teller, she being part of the honey hunting culture in her community, herc personality felt like she was the queen bee of her community. She is a woman who leads from the front and the bread winner of her family."

He started shooting the research material, and showed the clips to his editor. "He felt there was something very interesiting here and that it can be made into a short film. Since then it has not stopped going to film festivals and has had it's dream run," he added. *Gopi* has been screened at many prestigious film festivals including International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala - World premiere, New York Indian Film festival, Dharmashala Film festival, Film Bazaar Selects Award and the Beyond Borders Feminist Film Festival.

Those interested in attending the festival can book tickets on https://www.alteff.in/

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1974

Tape Recording of Court Work Affects Justice

Bangalore, Nov. 21. Mr. Justice E.S. Venkataramiah, in the Karnataka High Court, has upheld an order of the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Sindhanur, rejecting an application of a blind Advocate, to allow him to record the proceedings of the court, with the aid of a tape recorder, in order to facilitate the conduct of a case.

His Lordship dismissed a writ petition of Mr. G. Nagabhushan Rao, an Advocate of Hyderabad. The petitioner had been blind since 12 years. In spite of the infirmity, he passed the law examination and enrolled himself as an Advocate, in Andhra Pradesh. He also has a diploma in Russian language. He is practising law in Hyderabad.

K.H. Patil Wants Corruption-free Ministry

Mysore, Nov. 21. If the Congress were to be freed from corruption the Ministry should set an example, said the Pradesh Congress chief, Mr. K. H. Patil, here last night, while presiding over the national integration day function as a part of the Nehru Week celebrations. If the Congress wanted to be sound and stable it should eradicate corruption. He hoped that Mr. N. Raehaiah, the Social Welfare Minister, who was also present, would place the suggestion before the Cabinet. He was of the opinion that no party could replace them but If the party should be ruined it would be because of its own lapses and its own actions.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Capital city of the Vijayanagara Empire

The UNESCO World Heritage site was built as the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire during the mid 14th Century CE. It covers an area of about 4187, 24 hectares in Central Karnataka along the Tungabhadra basin. The city was abandoned in the mid-16th century. The remnats of the area include temples, forts, community halls and many such structures.

The pillared mantapas in Hampi architecture

Chariot festivals are an integral part of Hindu religion, the chariot structure in front of the Vitthala Temple is a testimony to the festival of that time. The structures were made of local granite, burnt bricks and lime mortar, evident from the pale brown hue of the structures. The other two famous chariots in India can be found in Konark (Odisha) and Mahabalipuram.

Reflection of Dravidian style of architecture

The Dravidian style of architecture flourished in South India. The remnants from Hampi echo a similar pattern. For instance, the Vittala Temple which was built during the reign of King Devaraya II (1422–1446 AD) symbolises South Indian temple architecture. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vitthala, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

The best known king of the empire

Krishnadevaraya was the most famous emperor of Vijayanagara, reigning from 1509 to 1529. He was the third monarch of the Tuluva dynasty. He not only expanded and stabilised the kingdom, but was also known to be a patron of the arts. He patronised poets and issued inscriptions in Kannada, Sanskrit, Telugu and Tamil. Krishnadevaraya himself was a polyglot.

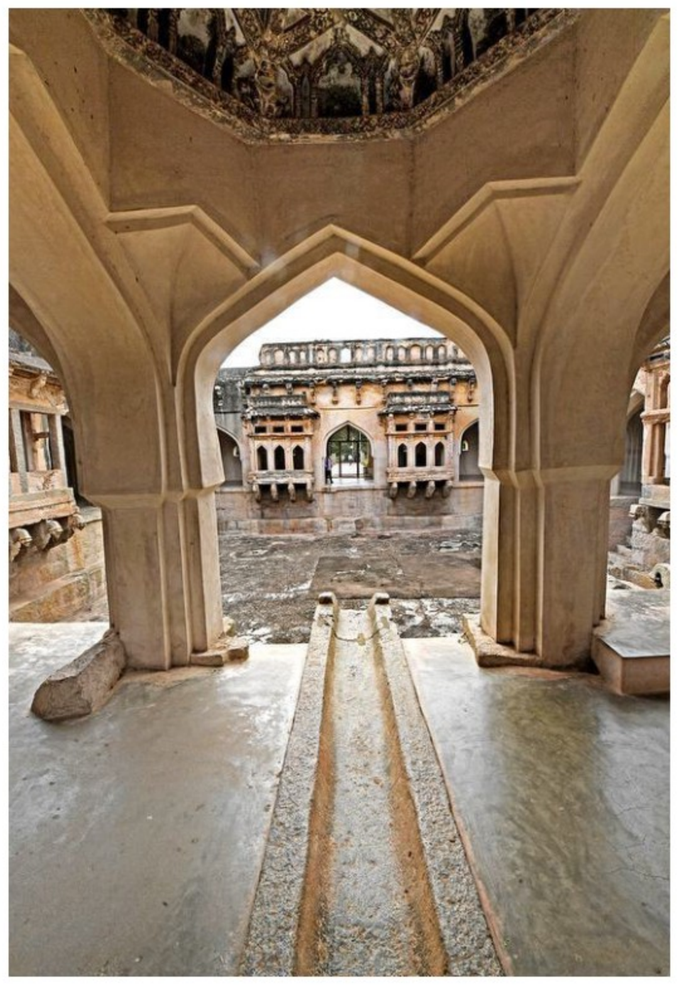
UNESCO World Heritage Site tag

Hampi was declared a World Heritage Site in 1986. During different periods Hampi was known by different names: Hosapattana (new city), Vijayanagara (city of victory), Vidyanagara (city of learning) or Hampe, Pampa-kshetra and Pampa-pura — after the local goddess Pampa.
Today Hampi is a major tourist attraction.

How water flowed into all corners of Hampi

On your next visit to the UNESCO-recognised historical site of Hampi, look out for the remains of the fascinating network of canals

A stepped water tank constructed near Mahanavami Dibba. A series of aqueducts was used to bring water from the Kamalapura Tank to fill the waterbody. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH



A slopping channel on the eastern side provides water to the Queen's Bath from a channel which runs around the structure. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

K.Bhagya Prakash
HAMPI

Hampi, the UNESCO-recognised historical site, was the capital of the Vijayanagara empire from 1336 to 1565. Foreign travellers from Persia, Europe and other parts of the world have chronicled the wealth of the place and the unique cultural mores of this kingdom built on the banks of the Tungabhadra river. There are fine descriptions to be found of its temples, farms, markets and trading links, remnants of which one can see in the ruins now. The Literature, architecture of this era continue inspire awe.

On a trip to Hampi, while some places like Vijaya Vittala temple or stone chariot remain must-visit places, a more leisurely and closer look at the monuments reveal many facets of this town. For instance, remains that tell the technology used to draw water -- for agriculture, drinking, bathing and so on -- from Tungabhadra and other sources to the city makes for a fascinating study.

Canals

Though building anekattu (check dams) started during the Hoysala times, Vijayanagara empire continued this in various places. We find one inscription that states that Bukkaraya, the earliest ruler, had built an anekattu across Penna river. Among the ruins of Hampi one can see canals small and big that brought water to the city. Some of them are still in use.

Water ducts constructed in granite can be seen which provided water to palaces, temples, market places, public bathing areas and so on. There are many pushkaranis (temple ponds), wells and rock-cut tanks built in the city to provide drinking water at various public gathering places.

There were water storage places especially for domestic animals, horses, elephants etc. too.

The water supply system gives a traveller insights into the extraordinary city planning that was carried out by the kings, architects and workers of the Vijayanagara empire.

A chain of aqueducts that used to bring water from the Kamalapura Tank to fill wells in Hampi. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

An aqueduct at Hazara Rama temple. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

A water storage tank near the audience hall in the Royal Centre, carved in a 12-m-long granite block that could hold 2,000 lt of water for horses. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

A water container made of a single rock at Krishna temple. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Tungabhadra river flowing through Hampi. K BHAGYA PRAKASH

INBRIEF

Tirupati airport gets more quota of Srivani tickets

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced an increase in the daily quota of Srivani darshan tickets issued at Tirupati airport. The ticket allotment has been raised from 100 to 200. The tickets are issued upon presentation of a valid boarding pass by travellers. The Srivani Trust tickets offer special darshan privileges for devotees.

Manohar Tahasildar, former Dy. Speaker of Karnataka, dead

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Former Minister and Deputy Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Manohar Tahasildar, 78, passed away due to illness at a hospital in Bengaluru on Thursday.

He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

Four-time MLA

A four-time MLA, Mr. Tahasildar was first elected to the Legislative Assembly from Hangal in 1978. Subsequently, he won from the constituency in 1989, 1999, and 2013. Mr. Tahasildar was elected as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly when S.M. Krishna was the Chief Minister.

Switched parties

Mr. Tahasildar was Excise Minister in 2015 but ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, he quit the Congress to join the Janata Dal (Secular) as he was denied the party ticket. During the last Lok Sabha elections, he quit the JD(S) to join the BJP.

On Thursday, a large number of people, including political leaders, paid their last respects to Mr. Tahasildar on the NCJC College premises in Hangal. The funeral will be held at his farmland in Akkiholi village on Friday.

Investigate Kerala Minister's remarks on Constitution: HC

Saji Cherian is alleged to have made public statements that insulted the Constitution at a CPI(M) meet in 2022; while Opposition parties demand his resignation, CPI(M) State secretary rules it out

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Saji Cherian

The Kerala High Court has directed the State government to order a Crime Branch probe into the incident in which Minister for Culture Saji Cherian is alleged to have made public statements that insulted the Constitution at a CPI (M) meeting at Mallapally in Pathanamthitta district in 2022.

The court on Thursday quashed the order issued by a Magistrate court closing the case on the grounds that a probe beyond that had been done by the police was not needed. It further took note of how the case was closed even without waiting for the outcome of the forensic examination of the visuals. Neither were the statements of journalists who were present at the site sought. In this situation, it was improper that the magistrate court closed the case, although there were references in Mr. Cherian's speech that insulted the Constitution, the court noted. A conclusive and fast probe must be done in the case, it said.

It said the findings of the investigation officer that Mr. Cherian did not seem to have any intention to insult the Constitution were contrary to facts. In this situation, the State Police Chief must order a Crime Branch probe in the case, the court added.

Petitioner Baiju Noel, an advocate, had sought further probe in the case.

Mr. Cherian, who stepped down as Minister following the controversy, was later reinstated into the State Cabinet.

The High Court's order has spurred the Opposition to demand Mr. Cherian's immediate resignation.

Mr. Cherian has "lost the moral and legal right to hold office", said the Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan.

Kerala BJP president K. Surendran sought the ouster of Mr. Cherian form the State Cabinet and read the High Court order as a slap across the face of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan "in whose interest Mr. Cherian was reinstated into the Cabinet".

Meanwhile, Mr. Cherian ruled out resigning from his post. Speaking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, he said a single Bench of the High Court had ordered the Crime Branch inquiry without hearing his side.

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan ruled out the possibility of Mr. Cherian's resignation.

KTR slams Cong., BJP for deals with Adani

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao has observed that the association of the Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with the Adani Group is not only bringing disrepute to the country but is poised to be a bad omen, following indictment of Group chairman Gautam Adani and others in a bribery case in a U.S. court.

He sought to know from the Congress government in Telangana as to how such a dubious group would be allowed to make investments in the State.

'Make deals public'

Mr. Rama Rao asked how much the Adani Group had offered the bigwigs of the State government for establishing a cement unit at Ramannapet and how much share he would be getting in the Musi Riverfront Development Project. He demanded that the government cancel the permissions given to Ambuja Cement unit at Ramannapet and also to make public all deals made with the Adani Group.

He sought to know the "shares of *bade bhai, chhote bhai*, Adani *bhai* and party high command" in the plans to exploit resources in Telangana.

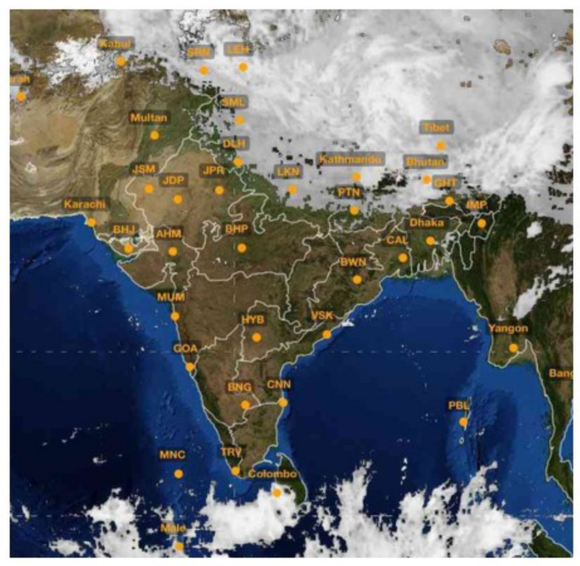
Separately, BRS MLC K. Kavitha has raised questions over the selective justice of the Centre and its efforts to shield Adani Group.

In a social media post she stated: "They propagate Akhand Bharat but deliver selective justice! Political opponents are arrested without evidence and put on trial for months, while Mr. Gautam Adani walks free despite repeated and grave allegations".

What is stopping the Union government from acting in the present issue, she asked.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm likely at isolated places over Meghalaya; with lightning at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.3	16.6	Kozhikode	—	34.7	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	30.4	17.5	Kurnool	—	31.8	19.2
Aizawl	—	29.2	18.0	Lucknow	—	25.5	11.0
Allahabad	—	27.6	13.3	Madurai	—	27.8	22.7
Bengaluru	—	27.0	18.8	Mangaluru	—	33.0	23.2
Bhopal	—	26.6	10.2	Mumbai	—	33.6	18.5
Bhubaneswar	—	30.0	16.7	Mysuru	—	29.6	18.6
Chandigarh	—	27.4	10.8	New Delhi	—	27.0	10.2
Chennai	—	31.2	25.8	Patna	—	26.8	17.8
Coimbatore	—	29.6	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.6	26.8
Dehradun	—	27.1	11.0	Puducherry	—	29.7	23.5
Gangtok	—	15.5	10.4	Pune	—	32.3	16.6
Goa	—	34.0	23.0	Raipur	—	28.8	15.4
Guwahati	—	30.0	15.9	Ranchi	—	25.4	12.2
Hubballi	—	31.0	16.0	Shillong	—	21.0	8.4
Hyderabad	—	29.4	15.7	Shimla	—	19.8	8.6
Imphal	8	26.0	14.0	Srinagar	—	14.7	-0.4
Jaipur	—	27.6	12.7	Thiruvananthapuram	4	30.2	24.5
Kochi	—	30.4	25.0	Tiruchi	—	29.5	24.0
Kohima	1	16.1	10.3	Vijayawada	—	29.7	20.2
Kolkata	—	29.2	18.7	Visakhapatnam	—	30.6	21.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	17	21	201	152	
Bengaluru	12	30	58	102	90	
Chennai	15	30	25	235	141	
Delhi	24	146	65	425	401	
Hyderabad	6	104	51	167	153	
Kolkata	8	84	23	192	158	
Lucknow	8	37	95	374	367	
Mumbai	4	43	18	228	168	
Pune	12	38	42	241	143	
Visakhapatnam	9	68	43	181	170	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 403 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

THE HINDU

There is a date that has a special place in your heart.

THE HINDU
INDIA TAKES THE WORLD CUP IN GRAND STYLE
CBI charge sheet indicts Raja, corporate bigwigs, 3 firms
Farm inputs to be supplied by May 15
JSS PUBLIC SCHOOL

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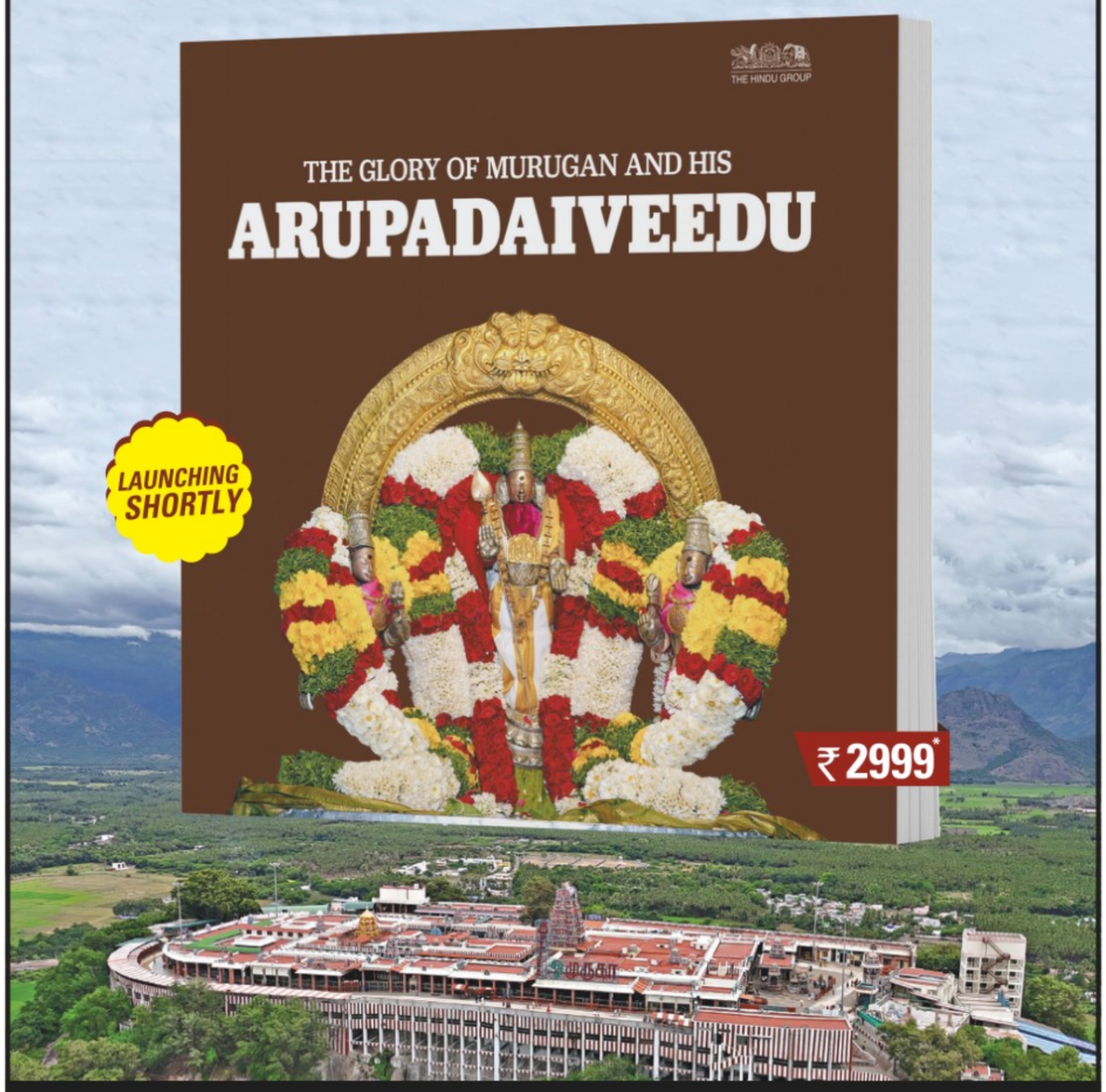
THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

He is a deity worshipped across the world but is especially dear to the people of Tamil Nadu, which has numerous temples for Him. Most celebrated among them are his Arupadaiveedu - six abodes that speak of His beauty, valour and compassion. The coffee-table book - 'The Glory of Murugan and His Arupadaiveedu,' - by *The Hindu* Group of Publications, comes with articles and about 300 visuals, which will be a treasure for Kandan devotees.



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‘Global consensus must to face challenges in using AI for governance’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Global consensus is required in formulating regulations for using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance to face emerging challenges such as copyrights, data protection, and cyber vulnerability issues, and it is time to think of expanding the usage of AI to newer areas, said panellists at the *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 here on Thursday.

During a panel discussion on the topic ‘AI Driven Governance-Concept to Practical Application’, moderated by Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, *The Hindu*, Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, said the Health Department, in 2022, had introduced AI in diagnosing tuberculosis in six districts in the State.

“We have 45 mobile vans fitted with digital X-ray machines to go around in remote and inaccessible areas. Out of these, six vans have been fitted with an AI tool, and more than 56,000 people have been screened by this tool in the last two years. The rate of detection, in comparison to the traditional models, is twice, and it is as precise as it would be done manually.”

Call for regulation: Thamaraiselvan S., AVP, Infosec Governance; Hasti Trivedi, President, Chief Digital and AI Officer, Firstsource; B. Ravindran, head, Department of Data Science and AI, IIT-M; and Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, at a session moderated by Ramya Kannan (left), Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu, *The Hindu*, in Chennai on Thursday. AKHILA EASWARAN

Expanding use

Ms. Sahu said it is time to think of expanding the use of AI to newer areas.

“We were wondering what we can do to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks in Coimbatore district, where the railway tracks pass through the forest and divide two reserve forest patches. Elephants migrate from one patch to another to drink water and forage. There were accidents resulting in the death of elephants. But AI came to our rescue,” she said.

She said in the health sector, AI had the potential to play an important role in screening refractive eye errors among children and detecting pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH).

Stressing the need to build adequate digital infrastructure before AI can have an impact, B. Ravindran, head, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, urged governments to actively work towards this.

“AI is not a single technology, but a slew of different things. We don’t need AI to solve all problems. We have to figure out what is the right solution that we need, especially in governance... What we see in most of the places where AI has made an impact, the actual AI solution itself is about 20 to 30% of the system,” he said.

A note of caution

He also sounded a note of caution that pushing the current state of AI models into governance would institutionalise models and is likely to ignore our cultural map. “We can talk about building AI models for the Indian condition. But we need to put in a lot of effort trying to build these safeguards for India. There is so much that is unique, like language, cuisine, literature to every State and region in this country that we need to capture.” He also said the Union government is planning to set up an AI safety institute soon.

Hasit Trivedi, president, Chief Digital and AI Officer, Firstsource, said India has taken the lead in getting a global consensus on AI in governance. “The bias, fairness, and risks have always been there since the birth of AI. But new things which came because of generative AI are copyright issues, data protection issues, and cyber vulnerability, and they require global consensus... From the Indian context, we have to be very careful because we should not be exporting the data. Data protection, usage, and localisation are extremely critical. I think we should ensure that we as a country do not become digital slaves.”

He also said, only the United States of America, China, and India have the potential to create AI technologies. “The U.S. has already created AI. China is in the race. India is the potential third country which can make a meaningful contribution to global AI.”

S. Thamaraiselvan, Assistant Vice-President, Infosec Governance, Hexaware, said: “The accuracy of the output that AI provides depends on the amount of data fed. In this context, we are already witnessing the digitisation in government sectors that is yielding results in terms of the efficiencies in consuming various services... Indians are the largest consumers of generative AI today. But we should explore how India can become a generator of AI technologies rather than consuming it. Even if we are consuming the data, we should explore to localise it to the Indian context.”

Fund focus: Sharad Agarwal, CEO, Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd., in conversation with Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, *The Hindu*. R. RAGU

‘Big investments being committed on data centres’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In the last four to five years, the term ‘data centre’ has come to the forefront primarily because of the high demand for this infrastructure setup, especially after COVID-19, when the adoption of cloud increased, Sharad Agarwal, CEO, Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd., said at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 on Thursday.

Huge investments are being committed on data centres, he said during a fireside chat on ‘Data Centres in the age if AI: Enabling Scalability, Security and Sustainability’ with Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, *The Hindu*. Mr. Agarwal highlighted how new generation data centres were launched by Sify in Chennai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai.

Environmental footprint

Responding to a query on water consumption in the industry, he said: “One thing that the data centre industry is doing, and we are also doing at Sify, is that net footprint on the environment has to be minimal, and we have to do it in a sustainable manner. That means water is not a mandatory ingredient for the data centres, especially the clean water is not something that is must for the expansion of a data centre.”

Mr. Agarwal said “there is enough technology and enough development happening where we don’t have to rely on clean water.”

‘T.N. govt. to set up centre of excellence with AI lab’

Its services will be offered to start-ups and other small players for a low operation fee, says Kumar Jayant, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology and Digital Services

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government will set up a Centre of Excellence with an Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab and will offer this to start-ups and other small players with a minimal operation fee, said Kumar Jayant, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Delivering his keynote address after inaugurating *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024, Mr. Jayant highlighted that the State recently announced its AI mission, and said that he would speak to the ICT Academy and explore how AI could be built into academics. ICT Academy is a not-for-profit, Government of India initiative that aims at training higher education teachers and students.

Speaking about the impact of AI on specific sectors, Mr. Jayant said: “One sector that has totally transformed is how we consume information. If you search for anything on Google, it gives an AI overview.” He, however, added: “One of the biggest issues is bias, such as algorithm-based bias and basic cognitive bias.”

Leveraging technology: Kumar Jayant speaking at the inaugural of the *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 in Chennai. AKHILA EASWARAN

Santhosh T.G., secretary of the CIO Association, said that though AI had been around for several decades, it has now emerged in a new avatar. We need to understand its capabilities and explore its full potential, he said.

Challenges ahead

Suresh Raman, convenor, CII TN ICT Panel and vice president and regional head, Tata Consultancy Services, said Tamil Nadu has always been ahead of the curve and has come out with policies pertaining to AI. Pointing out the challenges ahead, he said: “The real challenges lie in end-to-end infrastructure for IT for AI to freely scale. When I say infrastructure, I’m talking about infrastructure for AI training itself, and it is not as easy as it appears. The cost of AI hardware is going to be so high. Eventually, the hardware cost will come down.”

L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, said that AI is no longer a thing of the distant future; it is here and is shaping the way we live, work, and innovate. “While some important voices have argued that the impact of AI on humanity is likely to be as fundamental as fire, others have cautioned that, without the right guardrails, it could turn out to be an uncontrollable, raging wildfire,” he added.

A robot warmly greeted the guests upon arrival, offering a unique and innovative welcome experience at the event.

The event is presented by the SRM Institute of Science and Technology and powered by Sify, in association with ManageEngine.

The Confederation of Indian Industry is the industry partner, and CIO Association is the strategic partner.

RetailGPT is the phygital commerce partner for the summit; Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project is the healthcare partner, and LatentView Analytics is the data analytics partner. Tamil Nadu Technology Hub has been roped in as the digital transformation partner while Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation has come in as the skilling partner.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited is the mobility partner, and the TV partner is *Puthiya Thalaimurai*.

Collaboration push: Vanitha Venugopal, CEO, iTNT, in conversation with John Xavier, Technology Editor, *The Hindu*. R. RAGU

We plan to work with other States on best practices: iTNT CEO

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

“We have already signed a memorandum of understanding with T-Hub, Hyderabad, to work on best practices,” Vanitha Venugopal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT), said here on Thursday.

Participating in ‘Fireside Chat: AI-Driven Innovation: Shaping The Future of Technology and Industry in Tamil Nadu’, she said: “Collaborating with neighbouring States is absolutely something we are looking at. AI can do what you feed and preach, but the ethical aspect is something we have to imbibe. It is a cultural change. AI is going to take over a lot of things that we are going to do. iTNT can only encourage and support start-ups that work with us to work ethically. We cannot mandate what they should do.”

> At present, we have around 24 start-ups incubated in Tamil Nadu Technology Hub
>
> **VANITHA VENUGOPAL**
> CEO, Tamil Nadu Technology Hub

In a conversation with John Xavier, Technology Editor, *The Hindu*, Ms. Venugopal said: “At present, we have around 24 start-ups incubated in iTNT. As iTNT, we are trying to help start-ups make inroads into government datasets. In our many programmes, we are encouraging researchers to come and take their idea, convert it into a start-up, and commercialise it. We have also joined hands with the Tamil Nadu Start-up and Innovation Mission, which has nine regional hubs, to have an iTNT desk at each location to harness talent.”

‘Students must learn to adapt to new technology for industrial adaptability’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Students must learn to adapt to new technology and equip themselves with artificial intelligence (AI) skills for industrial adaptability, Revathi Venkataraman, chairperson, School of Computing, SRMIST, said here on Thursday.

In a fireside chat on ‘Empowering Students in the Age of AI: Skills for Tomorrow’s Innovators’ with Srinivasan Ramani, Deputy National Editor, *The Hindu*, as part of *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024, she said while the core engineering subjects were leveraging AI tools now, it was essential for engineering professionals to focus on fundamental engineering skills, such as creative thinking and problem solving. She stressed that AI skills could be a complementary tool and not a replacement.

Stress on skilling: Revathi Venkataraman, chairperson, School of Computing, SRMIST, in conversation with Srinivasan Ramani, Deputy National Editor, *The Hindu*. AKHILA EASWARAN

To a question posed by Mr. Ramani on whether AI has been incorporated in the curriculum of other disciplines, she said Gen AI and design thinking had been included in the course curriculum of all the disciplines in SRM Institutions. Students also gain hands-on experience through various multi-disciplinary projects.

Ethics and AI

Speaking about AI ethics training for students, Ms. Venkataraman said it had been interwoven into their curriculum, and that students were often questioned about the ethical interpretations of their projects. They were also guided towards contributing to sustainable development goals. Gen AI tools were now used by both students and teachers, she added.

Earlier, Mr. Ramani observed that AI had evolved beyond technology and had democratised knowledge to a wider range of people through the use of various applications.

‘Human intervention and ethical considerations are essential to AI’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

While artificial intelligence (AI) has made significant strides in transforming industries and improving efficiency, there are areas where human intervention remains essential – this was the perspective shared by panellists at the session ‘Transition from Hope to Reality: Navigating AI Challenges’ during *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024.

“No one expected that GenAI would creep into all fields. Today, it has taken centre stage in the education sector and cine industry,” Manjunath Prasad, Head, IT Operations, TVS Mobility, said. “There is a general conception that GenAI can do everything – it cannot do everything. Giving the right input and the right data matters,” he added. Mr. Prasad pointed out that human skill is needed to review whether we are on the right track.

Addressing challenges: Manjunath Prasad, Head, IT Operations, TVS Mobility, Roopesh Kumar, Head, Data Centre Projects, Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd, Srinivasan A.N., VP-Information Technology, SRF Limited, and Annie Uthra, Head, Department of Computational Intelligence at SRMIST, at the session moderated by Suresh Vijayaraghavan, CTO, The Hindu Group. AKHILA EASWARAN

The panel, moderated by Suresh Vijayaraghavan, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), The Hindu Group, also spoke about specialists required to handle operations and manage AI. “GenAI is not just a simple programme. You need to consider the data, the security, and what gateway you are going to use,” said Srinivasan A.N., VP-Information Technology, SRF Limited.

“You need a domain specialist, a data scientist to manage the data, a software guy to integrate AI with the system,” he added.

Roopesh Kumar, Head, Data Centre Projects, Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd, pointed out how digitisation is often confused with AI. “The resource required for digitisation is far lower than AI,” he said.

Annie Uthra, Head, Department of Computational Intelligence at SRMIST, said GenAI was growing fast. “To cope with those changes, we have been upskilling students and faculty,” she said.

‘AI will drive innovation, revolutionise business and make life better’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will drive innovation and bring innovative thinking to life more effectively and efficiently, and in the realm of business, it is going to revolutionise and deliver 100% results, said panellists at the *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 here on Thursday.

At a panel discussion on ‘Driving Innovation: AI’s Role in Transforming Business Operation’, moderated by L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), The Hindu Group, Hariharan Veeramuthu, Chief Information Officer, Gulf Asia Engineering Projects, spoke about how businesses can integrate AI to enhance operational efficiency and drive innovation across functions.

“There are three pillars: people, process, and technology. Now there are many IT tools and systems that are being implemented by different industries and companies. We need to look at the core areas where we have bottlenecks in the process, where we need to fine-tune our existing systems, and the need to migrate from the legacy to the digital journey,” he added.

Tech talk: (From left) L.V. Navaneeth moderates a panel discussion on ‘Driving Innovation: AI’s Role in Transforming Business Operation’ with Sadique Ahmed, Nitin Maheshwari, Hariharan Veeramuthu, and Raghu Achat, during *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 on Thursday. R. RAGU

For sustainability goals

Speaking about how AI can contribute to achieving sustainability goals in business operations, such as reducing waste and optimising energy usage, he said products have come up with AI as the base. “We need to have particular metrics to optimise our solutions. Those can be applied to day-to-day activities and improvise the process by using technology to leverage their efficiency in operations,” he added. Nitin Maheshwari, Director, Information Technology, Flex, while speaking about how AI is enabling companies to rethink traditional business models for greater confidence, said when legacy companies want to become digital first, they should not just attempt to replace certain technologies with the latest ones. There are certain questions that need to be asked on why the company wants to become digital first and how much investment is required.

All these should be implemented iteratively.

Impact on jobs

On the likely impact of AI on jobs and the future of employability in the workplace, he said from an employee perspective, we need to get back to reality and embrace AI, and from the organisation perspective, AI is not only a driver to save cost, it can also help in terms of making employees more efficient. “Going forward, AI will do whatever it does best, right from processing and playing with massive amounts of data to solving complex problems. Human intelligence and artificial intelligence will coexist, and they will complement each other,” he added.

Sadique Ahmed, founder and CEO, Pathfinder Global, while speaking about the key performance indicators that organisations should use to measure the success of AI initiatives, said optimisation of business, financial metrics, customer engagement and satisfaction, sustainability, and increasing productivity of the people are some of the key metrics. “How are these tools going to enable our leadership and our teams on the ground to deliver more? Instead of having an army of people, how can we get better outcomes from the same people is an important metric,” he said.

He said AI is going to make life better. “We need to embrace the new revolution,” he said. He highlighted the higher cost of customer services at the level of hyper-personalisation, and said: “With AI, it is just a fraction of the cost on scale to look at it... People were scared it was going to take jobs. But actually, it gave more jobs. AI is going to increase opportunities.”

Raghu Achat, Vice-President, Information Technology, Thejo Engineering, while speaking about implementing AI in legacy systems and traditional business practices, observed that there is nothing called ‘legacy systems’ any more. “Because today, systems are capable of crunching structured and unstructured data,” he said. He stressed on the need to break the legacy mindset to adopt technologies, and said that motivation should be the prime driver behind digital transformation in an organisation.

AI versus AI: Sujatha Iyer, head of AI Security, ManageEngine, at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024. R. RAGU

‘To fight AI’s dark side, use artificial intelligence’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Like the saying goes, “Set a thief to catch a thief,” one can use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to combat AI, Sujatha Iyer, Head of AI Security ManageEngine said at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024.

“ChatGPT and Large Language Model (LLM) are increasing productivity levels. But there is a dark side to LLMs too. There are similar platforms which are used to generate convincing phishing campaigns. You wont even have a suspicion that it is a phishing campaign,” she said during a fireside chat with Suresh Vijayaraghavan Chief Technology Officer of *The Hindu* Group on the topic ‘AI in Cybersecurity: Building Next-Generation Defences Against Emerging Threats.’

Ms. Iyer further said, “If you look at the scenario today, digital has become the first touch point of every business. There is a lot of emphasis and momentum on security and privacy.”

She pointed out that given the digitisation speed.. not every employee is going to be digitally aware.. so there are chances of phishing campaigns and people inadvertently enter their credentials online. In such cases AI will help you take a stand – they see suspicious sites and alert you, she added. AI helps take the next big action, she said adding that it is important to monitor your sample set to see if there is any drift in data.

AI is augmentative tech, not a replacement for human capital: Minister

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan says AI is a wonderful opportunity and not a threat; Tamil Nadu’s IT Minister adds the ultimate benefit of AI would be in addressing real problems of governance

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Tamil Nadu’s Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, said on Thursday that artificial intelligence (AI) is “augmentative technology rather than a replacement for human capital.”

In his valedictory address at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024, he said: “This is a vital period in our evolution as a country where, now and for the next 20 years, India will be the largest source of working-age human capital in the world. This is our chance to take AI as a wonderful opportunity rather than to see it as a threat.”

The Minister said that the volume of data collected, stored and available for analysis is “mind-boggling”.

“The first PC I had in my house in Madurai in 1981, had a RAM of 64 kilobytes and a hard drive of 20 megabytes. Today, we have run out of zeros to talk about the amount of data being generated every day.”

Mr. Thiaga Rajan said that earlier, data was manually entered into a computer. “Now, we have data that nobody has ever touched, coming in at such high volumes. This lends itself to the notion that we don’t need a human being in between. The collection and storage is automatic. The algorithms will process the data, and the results will come without any human being having touched it. So, data is the first big thing that has changed.”

Showcasing opportunity: Palanivel Thiaga Rajan speaking at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 in Chennai on Thursday. R. RAGU

He said that we had moved past traditional notions of data and have taken a more inclusive approach, especially in the case of voice data, which according to him would be a gamechanger in India. “If you have a huge volume of data and a large amount of processing capability, the physical infrastructure becomes the bottleneck. The first question is do we have data centres that can store that kind of data.”

He added the shift towards automation and processing was inevitable. “But at this point, technology still is augmentative. We can see so many flaws, and limitations in technology. It will take time for us to clean all this data and use it effectively.”

He said the ultimate benefit of AI would be to address problems in governance. Across the world, all governments had under-invested in infrastructure, processing capability, and cybersecurity. He said job replacements would happen, but not immediately. “We have time and all of us collectively – the government, industry, academia, global companies, and innovators – will find a way to see this as an inflection point, not just in technology, but in our economic activity,” he added.

Quality check: Saravanakumar Krishnamurthy, Rajan Sethuraman, Rajiv R.G., and Santhosh T.G. at the summit. R. RAGU

‘AI can be an effective tool if availability of clean data is ensured’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Data is like oxygen and for artificial intelligence (AI) to be useful, one needs “oxygenated data”, the “clean data” that is available with a company, said Santhosh T.G., Chief Digital Officer, Switch Mobility, at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 on Thursday.

During a panel discussion on ‘AI in Decision-Making: Enhancing Data-Driven Strategies’, he said, “Data plays a major role. When a manufacturing company can have a battalion of people to check vehicle quality, I think it is the right time that every organisation also had a couple of people to check that the quality of data coming is also correct.”

Stating that AI is still a co-pilot, Rajiv R.G., Chief Information Officer, Bawan Cybertek, said the question whether “AI can make a decision with an empathetic view” remains to be answered.

“I came across a person in an interior village who runs a door-to-door beauty parlour set up [after] seeking a loan in the microfinance industry. She was denied the loan by AI because her credit exposure is high, but a salesperson said that she was a good customer and has scope to expand and that she would also be able to repay the loan. The empathy angle is missed,” he said.

In the discussion, moderated by Nagaraj N., Vice-President, Content Analytics & Data, The Hindu Group, Saravankumar Krishnamurthy, Chief Information Security Officer, Vivriti Capital, said, AI will not replace human touch.

Speaking about the data available in organisations Rajan Sethuraman, Chief Executive Officer, LatentView said that rather than a data quality problem, organisations today are facing a problem of plenty of data, most of which is not being used. The bigger challenge to solve, therefore, is to be selective in deciding how to utilise the available data, he further elaborated.

AI models must be transparent for better traceability, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Artificial intelligence (AI) models must be transparent for better traceability and enable users to interpret the decisions made, said panelists at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 here on Thursday.

Experts from various sectors spoke on the ‘Ethical Considerations in AI: Navigating the Moral Landscape’ in a session moderated by John Xavier, Editor-Technology, *The Hindu*.

(From left) John Xavier with Srinivasulu Thayam, T.K. Balaji, V. Kavitha, and Balakrishnan Kanniah, at the summit . R. RAGU

Highlighting how AI is used to maintain electronic medical records and assist in solutions to build diabetic retinopathy, Srinivasulu Thayam, Chief Technology Officer, Aravind Eye Care System, said there were challenges in addressing synthetic data. Besides validating the data used for decision support system, clinical stakeholders are explained about the outcomes.

While Balaji T.K., Assistant Vice-President, Engineering, FlexiLoans, noted that AI algorithms are used for credit scores for loans and its assistance is sought with data patterns for credit assessment, Balakrishna Kanniah, Chief Information Officer, VA Tech Wabag, noted that AI gave an insight into data analytics to develop a decision support system on water storage. It helped in preparing a gist of large tender documents and ensure quick decisions.

Kavitha V., Head, Department of Data Science and Business Systems, School of Computing, SRMIST, said that AI is a non-linear model and vigorous testing process would help arrive at a reliable model. Students are taught to come up with products and AI solutions where outcomes can be interpreted.

The panelists suggested that an alternative mechanism must be in place to audit AI system and ensure fundamental ethical policy for AI.

Gen X sees future in AI, language barriers may go: Innocent Divya

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The younger generation has immense potential to transform technology into a valuable tool for themselves and the industry they work in, said Innocent Divya, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), at *The Hindu* AI Summit 2024 here on Thursday. She said academicians, too, are embracing artificial intelligence (AI), besides students who see their future in AI.

Nagaraj N. in conversation with Innocent Divya on ‘Leveraging AI for Student Upskilling in Tamil Nadu’. AKHILA EASWARAN

In a fireside chat on ‘Empowering Future Talent: Leveraging AI for Student Upskilling’ with Nagaraj N., Vice-President, Content Analytics and Data, The Hindu Group, Ms. Divya spoke about the *Naan Mudhalvan Scheme*, Tamil Nadu’s flagship skill development programme, and the key challenges faced by TNSDC in implementing it.

The scheme focused on bridging the skill gap in curricula, providing industry-relevant training, and offering emerging technology skills to students. Noting that digital divide and the availability of qualified trainers were the key challenges, Ms. Divya said TNSDC collaborated with academic institutions and industries to bridge these gaps. Some of the emerging technologies, like electric vehicles technology, did not have standardised textbooks, she said.

To a question posed by Mr. Nagaraj on the challenge of communication skills, Ms. Divya said while it is a concern flagged by the industry despite the technical capabilities of students, language barrier may become a thing of the past with AI tools being customised in regional languages. The TNSDC has prioritised the combination of communication skills and soft skills as a two-credit programme in curriculum to enhance the employability of students.

Ending the tragedy

Manipur requires a leadership change for a political solution

The adage "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results" holds true for Manipur. It has been more than a year and a half since ethnic violence erupted between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in the State. The initial clashes resulted in scores of deaths, and, since then, parts of the State, many of which are under the effective control of security forces, have witnessed sporadic but intense incidents of violence. Despite this, there has been little effort toward peace or reconciliation. Even areas such as Jiribam, which initially escaped the violence, are now engulfed in conflict, as recent events have shown. The situation in Manipur is no longer just about identifying who triggered the violence or what administrative steps are needed to stop it. The violence has spiralled to the point where ethnic divisions have become entrenched in the social fabric of the State. Every act of violence now leads to calls for retribution against entire communities, from both the Meitei and Kuki-Zo sides. Armed non-state actors, some of whom are openly or covertly supported by elected representatives, seem to control the situation, while civil society groups are marginalised.

This descent into chaos in one of India's most culturally rich and diverse border States has unfolded rapidly under the watch of an incompetent and indifferent government, which has failed to take responsibility or implement any meaningful solutions. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his cabinet have long lost credibility due to their mishandling of the crisis. The Union government, too, shares the blame for allowing the situation to persist. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remained largely silent on the issue, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah has avoided taking any decisive action to address the crisis, presumably to avoid upsetting the political balance in the State. The role of security forces, while important, cannot be the sole solution to an ethnic conflict of this nature. What is required is political will and the ability to advance meaningful dialogue that can bring the community representatives closer to finding a compromise. The Union government's refusal to even consider a change in leadership, as suggested by the Bharatiya Janata Party's ally, the National People's Party (NPP), has only allowed the situation to fester. The NPP's withdrawal of support from the government signals a growing recognition that the current leadership is not capable of addressing the crisis. It is now clear that a leadership change is necessary to chart a new course for Manipur. A political solution can be based only on consensus and compromise and these are impossible with a government headed by a partisan politician who is hoping to benefit from a polarisation of people on communal lines.

New heroes

India needs a young set of cricketers to come good against Australia

It has been a tale of contrasting Indian performances in cricket over the last few weeks. India's home dominance, especially in Tests, ground to a halt as the visiting New Zealanders swept the series 3-0. However, an entirely different squad under Suryakumar Yadav donned their blue jerseys, flew to South Africa and won the T20I series 3-1. An inexplicable fragility against spin in Tests and a domineering aura in T20Is are evident. While this backstory has its distinct ebb and flow, the next seven weeks should offer an entirely new perspective, besides the attendant hype, as India and Australia clash in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series with the first Test commencing at Perth's massive Optus Stadium on Friday. With five Tests scheduled across Australia through the southern summer, one of cricket's greatest rivalries will get a fresh start. While the microscopic tale is centred around how this series would evolve, the macroscopic outlook would be focused on the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) rankings in which India currently trails topper Australia in the points percentage tally. A berth in the WTC final is no longer an automatic choice, and if India wants to qualify on its own merit, it needs to win four of these five Tests, or else await the permutation-combination of results involving other teams.

Over the last decade, beyond the subcontinent, India has largely shed its poor-traveller tag and the two Test series triumphs in Australia during the 2018-19 and 2020-21 tours, is a reflection of this resilience. It is this slice of history that adds more bite as Jasprit Bumrah's men step out for their latest cricketing joust. With regular skipper Rohit Sharma, currently on a paternity break, set to lead from the second Test, India will gain added experience in its ranks. Injury concerns over Shubman Gill, and the absence of Mohammed Shami, wending his way back from a surgery, may add to the worry lines but in the 2020-21 tour, India was literally the walking wounded, and yet Ajinkya Rahane led a second-string unit to a remarkable 2-1 victory. It is this abiding strength in the Indian ranks that has unsettled the Australians, and Pat Cummins and his men are wary of their rivals despite the latest reversal against New Zealand. A lot will hinge on spearhead Bumrah's spells and the ability of the batters to string vital partnerships. Both Virat Kohli and Rohit are suffering a low patch in Tests and if these seniors can turn it around, India will be better served. An interesting series is on the cards and perhaps new heroes will rise.

India needs an environmental health regulatory agency

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, and Principal Adviser, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Kalpana Balakrishnan

Dean (Research), Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, (SRIHER), Chennai

Vijay Shankar Balakrishnan

a science journalist with over 12 years of experience covering the life sciences, the environment, and public health, and has worked for the World Health Organization

The 2024 Conference of Parties (COP 29) ends in Baku, Azerbaijan today. As a global voice for developing countries, India will push for ambitious climate mitigation financing from developed nations. At the same time, pollutants in our air, water and land continue to pose grave health risks. According to the Emissions Gap Report 2024 from the United Nations Environment Programme, India has seen over 6% more greenhouse gas emissions than the previous year. These two examples show that India is at a critical juncture in its environmental and public health journey.

As a nation, India continues to experience rapid economic growth, so the interdependencies between climate, environment, health, and the economy are undeniable but capacities to address these issues holistically are limited. It is time for India to establish an environmental health regulatory agency (EHRA), which could lead to more comprehensive and cohesive environmental governance that focuses simultaneously on pollution control and health risk mitigation.

The urgency of integration

There are profound and immediate environmental health challenges to address in India. Numerous epidemiological studies conducted across multiple States and rural and urban populations have uncovered the detrimental health effects of exposure to air, water and soil pollutants, which include a wide range of non-communicable diseases. For example, exposure to air pollution, $PM_{2.5}$ in particular, is now known to be associated with respiratory, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, pregnancy outcomes, child growth and development and even mental health disorders. This poses risks to the most vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, and financially poor groups.

Building on efforts of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), India's current environmental governance model needs to be more integrated with health. The CPCB focuses on pollution control, while the MoEFCC handles broader environmental policies, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) undertakes integrated disease surveillance and management. There is a disconnect between environmental monitoring, health impact assessments, and emissions control, given little to no data flow across these Ministries.

A centralised agency such as an EHRA could integrate environmental and health data, allowing policymakers to track, regulate, and mitigate these impacts effectively, with much-needed inter-disciplinarity.

There are examples to inspire us: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Germany's Federal Environment Agency (UBA), and Japan's Ministry of the Environment (MOE) provide robust frameworks that bridge environmental management with public health protection.

The EPA's approach covers a lot of ground – it regulates air and water quality, manages waste, and controls toxic substances while relying on integrated science assessments that include health together with vigorous enforcement. Germany's UBA focuses on environmental policy, managing air, water and waste regulations while championing sustainable energy and climate initiatives. Japan's MOE tackles pollution, chemical safety, and ecosystem protection. It collaborates with health and science agencies to monitor environmental health, enforce pollution controls, and address urban pollution and radiation issues.

The explicit integration of environment and health is part of the routine operational framework at these global agencies. Having an agency such as an EHRA in place could help India formulate a unified response to all types of pollution, advocate cumulative accountability mechanisms and collaborate with international bodies to negotiate for and adopt best practices that simultaneously address health and environment.

> Having such an agency in India, which it currently lacks, would look at the interlinked issues of climate, environment, health and the economy in a holistic way

A data-driven, evidence-based framework

Effective regulation is built upon reliable and context-specific data. In this context, significant global funding is invested in environmental health effects research to establish a robust evidence base for policies. Even though organisations such as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) provide essential support for environmental health research, their impact is somewhat limited without a central body to bring together and translate this data into practical policies.

An EHRA would enable India to adopt an evidence-informed and science-driven regulatory framework, commissioning studies specific to the nation's unique environmental health challenges, such as poor air quality, vector-borne diseases, effects of persistent organic chemicals and heavy metal exposures in the context of changing land-use patterns and the consequences of climate change on health systems. Integrating health impact assessments (HIAs) into all significant projects, such as urban development and infrastructure planning, would allow decision-makers to understand and mitigate health risks before they escalate.

Contrary to concerns that environmental regulation may impede economic growth, an EHRA could promote sustainable practices that drive innovation, create green jobs, and support long-term financial resilience. For instance, the U.S. EPA has shown that its presence and work do not hinder economic growth but spur investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and pollution prevention while also increasing life expectancy.

India's economic trajectory need not be at odds with environmental health. An incentivised energy transition and public health campaigns around environmental health could encourage enterprises to transition to cleaner technologies. An EHRA can develop policy instruments that will help the nation align environmental health objectives with economic policies, which in turn would promote sustainable development that benefits the environment, public health, and the economy at the same time.

Involving the public is essential for the success of environmental health initiatives. In India, an EHRA could be critical in educating citizens on environmental health risks and empowering communities to advocate cleaner air, water, and healthier living conditions. Citizen initiatives and the role of non-governmental organisations are pivotal, given the need for accountability to start bottom-up, from the local bodies and panchayat levels. The role of communicators and journalists is crucial in highlighting and supporting these initiatives.

India has signed the Paris Agreement and has committed to the Sustainable Development Goals. An EHRA would be instrumental in helping India meet these commitments by aligning national policies with global standards. It would also contribute to collective efforts to tackle climate and health challenges including addressing transboundary issues.

Environmental health issues vary significantly across India's regions, so we must move from a one-size-fits-all approach and localise interventions. An EHRA could work closely with State and municipal governments to ensure the development and enforcement of policies that are tailored to environmental solutions for the unique needs of each area. By developing a granular national platform for monitoring and accountability, India could track health outcomes in detail, leading to more effective and timely responses to local needs

Building accountability

Establishing an EHRA in India would not be without challenges, from bureaucratic inertia to resistance from industry stakeholders wary of regulation. However, clear frameworks for inter-ministerial coordination, measurable objectives, and cross-sectoral cooperation could help overcome these barriers. An EHRA should be operationally independent, guided by scientific expertise, and empowered to enforce policies that prioritise public health.

India's recent successes in meeting renewable energy targets highlight the nation's capacity for ambitious, systemic change. An EHRA could build on these achievements to strengthen India's governance of its environmental health crisis by framing pollution control as both a public health imperative and an economic opportunity.

A bilateral investment treaty with a 'bit' of change

Prabhash Ranjan

a Professor and Director, Centre for International Investment and Trade Laws, Jindal Global Law School

The bilateral investment treaty (BIT) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which was signed earlier this year was recently made public. This BIT, which will replace the 2014 India-UAE investment treaty, is critical. It reveals India's latest investment treaty practice and might elucidate India's ongoing negotiations with the United Kingdom and the European Union. A typical BIT should accomplish two objectives. First, it should balance the competing goals of investment protection and the state's sovereign right to regulate. Second, it should contain unambiguous provisions to reduce the discretion of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) tribunals.

Departures from the Model

Though India adopted a Model BIT in 2015, it has barely managed to sign a handful of BITs based on this model. Intriguingly, the India-UAE BIT departs from the Model BIT on some significant issues.

First, it provides that a foreign investor must exhaust local remedies for at least three years before bringing an ISDS claim. This period in the Model BIT and subsequent BITs that India signed with countries such as Belarus and Kyrgyzstan is five years. Several countries lament that five years is too long. Given the overstretched Indian judicial system, it is unlikely that a foreign investor's legal dispute with the state would be resolved in five years. It seems India has taken these concerns on board and softened its stand. This gives foreign investors quicker access to ISDS, thus, bringing the pendulum somewhat back to the pole of investment protection. A shorter waiting period to invoke ISDS does not mean that India is exposing itself to treaty claims, as asserted by some. The function of investment treaties is to safeguard foreign investment from sovereign regulatory abuse. As long as India does not indulge in regulatory abuse it need not worry about ISDS claims.

> Despite some departures, the India-UAE bilateral investment treaty establishes a continuity of India's investment treaty practice

Second, the definition of investment in the India-UAE BIT states that for an enterprise to qualify as an investment, and thus be eligible for treaty protection, it should possess key economic characteristics such as a commitment of capital, profit expectation, and risk assumption. The criterion that the investment should, in addition, be significant for the development of the host state, which is present in the Model BIT, has been done away with. This is a welcome development clarifying the jurisdictional question. Several ISDS tribunals have held that proving foreign investment is significant for the development of the host state, is an inherently value-laden exercise. Thus, by removing this subjective element from the definition of investment, India and the UAE have reduced arbitral discretion. At any rate, when a lawfully created enterprise satisfies other key economic investment characteristics, it is presumably significant for the host state's development.

Greater clarity

Third, Article 4 of the India-UAE BIT, which talks of 'treatment of investments', specifically lists when state action will amount to a treaty violation such as when there is a denial of justice or when there is a fundamental breach of due process in dealing with investment. These grounds are mentioned in a similar provision in the Model BIT. However, in the Model BIT, these grounds are linked to customary international law (CIL) whereas in Article 4 of the India-UAE BIT, there is no reference to CIL. The content of CIL concerning various aspects of foreign investment is not settled. Thus, a reference to CIL in the treaty, as numerous ISDS cases show, gives too much discretion to these tribunals. Consequently, Article 4 brings greater clarity for states and investors and curbs arbitral discretion.

A continuity

Notwithstanding some departures, the India-UAE BIT establishes a continuity of India's investment treaty practice. For instance, the India-UAE BIT, like the Model, does not contain the most favoured nation (MFN) provision, which is a core non-discrimination standard in international economic relations. Likewise, state action on taxation is outside the scope of the India-UAE BIT. Thus, arguably, a foreign investor cannot challenge tax measures even if they are abusive. This maximises the state's regulatory power at the cost of investment protection. Like the Model BIT, Article 14.6(i) of the India-UAE BIT bars the jurisdiction of an ISDS tribunal to review the 'merits' of a domestic court decision. Arguably, 'merits' means that ISDS tribunals should not act as a court of appeal. However, 'merits' can also have an alternative interpretation.

Since the investor will bring an ISDS claim on the same issue adjudicated by the domestic court, the state can plausibly argue that the case is on the 'merits' of the domestic court decision. This might impede the tribunal's ability to hear the case. On some issues, the India-UAE BIT goes beyond the Model. For instance, it specifically disallows third-party funding and the unavailability of ISDS if an allegation of fraud or corruption is made against the investor.

One does not know whether the departures from the Model BIT signify India's change of heart or are specific to the UAE. Developed countries would be pleased with India's softening of the five-year domestic litigation requirement. However, they would remain concerned about India's continued stand of excluding MFN and taxation issues from the BIT's ambit.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speech and arrest

The sentencing of an actor for hate speech should serve as a precedent. One expects the same yardstick to be applied in hate speech directed against some other communities also (Editorial, November 21).

R. Shankaran,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The actor is known to deliver fiery and distasteful speeches on a number of issues. This is certainly not the first time of transgression by her. Perhaps the media needs to follow the interviews and speeches made by various public personalities. In a mature democracy such as India, everyone has the responsibility to express their opinions but they must maintain a certain level of decency on social media and in public spaces.

C.V. Vasudevan,
Chennai

It is worth noting that many public figures make intemperate remarks without facing the consequences, simply because they hold positions of power. Still, the Kasthuri episode serves as a reminder that public speakers must exercise restraint.

P. Sreenivasan,
Chennai

For decades, the Tamil Brahmin community has been the target of demeaning portrayal in Tamil films and public meetings. Yet not a single person has been taken to task. Punitive action for hate speech must be taken independent of the community being attacked.

J. Hareesh,
Houston, Texas, U.S.

Tennis legend

Bidding farewell to one's favourite sportsperson is overwhelming. Rafael Nadal, a self-made glorious jewel in the world of tennis. needs no introduction. In an age of star tantrums, Nadal never hurt the sport that looked after him. He will always shine ('Sport' page, November 21).

Kirti Wadhawan,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is social media doing more harm than good to democracy?

Alan Rusbridger

Editor of 'Prospect Magazine', former editor-in-chief of 'The Guardian' and a member of Meta's Oversight Board which makes content and policy recommendations for Facebook, Instagram, and Threads

Pratik Sinha

Co-founder and editor of AltNews, a fact-checking website

PARLEY

In the U.K., *The Guardian* newspaper announced earlier this month that it will no longer be posting on X, claiming that it is "a toxic media platform" and that its owner, Elon Musk, "has been able to use its influence to shape political discourse." Is social media a useful tool or is it becoming a threat to democratic societies? Alan Rusbridger and Pratik Sinha discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Priscilla Jebaraj**. Edited excerpts:

How much should a news outlet or even regular users be worried about the ownership of a social media platform in deciding where to post and where to consume news?

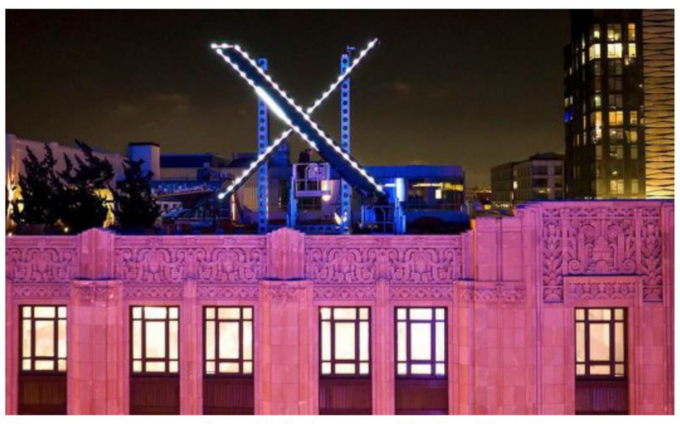
Alan Rusbridger: It is a real dilemma because Twitter (now X) was for many years a really wonderful place for posting news, finding audiences, finding out news, and building relationships. In normal circumstances, who owns a media platform shouldn't worry us too much. But Elon Musk has so dominated Twitter, the platform that he bought, and insisted that people follow him, that it is difficult to ignore the question of ownership.

Pratik Sinha: We should be worried. One should think of online spaces just the way we think of offline spaces. Offline, we try to quit toxic spaces and some people have the privilege of being able to do so. When you are able to quit a toxic relationship, typically it is because you are financially independent. *The Guardian* is such a huge organisation that even if it doesn't have traffic from X, it is okay for the newspaper. X is probably just a little more toxic than other platforms. So, it is a privilege that one is able to quit a more toxic platform and focus on others.

It is important to know who owns media organisations, but it is not the only factor. One also has to look at day-to-day reportage. Had Mr. Musk bought X and not used it as a political tool, it would have been a different matter. But not only did he buy it; he uses it as a personal tool and not just a political tool. The algorithm has been tweaked to ensure that everyone on X sees his posts. That is where the problem lies.

How important is social media to disseminate content?

PS: Very important, unfortunately. Our primary sources of information have become social media platforms which are controlled by multi-billion dollar companies. We have to use these platforms because, how else do we reach out to people? And that also makes censorship easy because the government only has to have a relationship with these two or three platforms, the kind of relationships that governments typically have with monopolies, to ensure that the information that should reach citizens is censored. We are in a tricky space because we have no free platforms where information can reach citizens without many layers of filters.



The company headquarters of X in downtown San Francisco. AP

AR: It used to be really important. There are about 350 million people on X, so that is a considerable audience. In the digital world, for a long time, it was really important to be able to amplify journalism through that platform. But people who analyse these things say that the number of referrals from social media, and to some extent from search engines, has declined.

Are some platforms worse than others?

AR: I think the problem is that there is a huge mismatch between the editorial standards and values that the best news organisations represent and the editorial standards of Mr. Musk. He has none. He has abandoned all the trust and safety teams. He doesn't believe in content moderation; he sees it as censorship. The attempts by regulators and advertisers to try and clean up X have been met with the most foul-mouthed rejection. He also holds contempt for the free press. He is constantly telling people that they shouldn't believe anything on the legacy media and that the only place you can find the truth nowadays is X. So it is an act of peculiar masochism to keep appearing on his platform when he despises us. That is why people are thinking, well, let's go somewhere where we are valued and where facts and truth and journalism still count for something.

What alternatives do you think are better?

AR: There is Mastodon, which everyone found extremely hard to use, so it has not really worked. There is Threads, which has become quite popular quite quickly. And there is Bluesky, which a lot of journalists are now fleeing to. There is a view that you shouldn't moderate anything. That is not a view that has widely brought favour in the world apart from the U.S. under Donald Trump. Most people feel that there is a lot of illegal, harmful content which should be moderated in some way.

> Any communication system which works well is great for citizens and for democracy. But when that same communication system is subsumed by the very system that is committing the atrocity, that is a problem
>
> **PRATIK SINHA**

PS: The problem is centralisation of information. What I consider as true alternatives are decentralised systems. Mastodon and Bluesky have been designed to be decentralised. I don't consider Threads as an alternative because it is just another product by a monopoly which is not decentralised, though it is attempting to include some decentralisation features. Alternatives will not be as convenient to use and we should be okay with that because it is the only way that these platforms will have the opportunity to improve.

Misinformation is platform-agnostic. Quantitatively, it is very difficult to say whether there is more on one platform, because it also depends on usage. For instance, in India, there is more misinformation on WhatsApp simply because the usage of WhatsApp is high in India. What is different is the amount of hate speech that is being put out on different platforms. All platforms have a policy vis-a-vis hate speech, but the question is whether these policies are being implemented or not. I don't think there is a single X employee dedicated to moderating Indian content on the platform. Everyone was fired. So, maybe in that particular aspect, Facebook might be slightly better than X because people are moderating content there.

What kind of checks should platforms be putting in place to reduce such toxicity?

PS: They need to invest money in people to moderate content. When riots had happened in Sri Lanka, Facebook did not have a single moderator in Sri Lanka. There were a few sitting in an office in Hyderabad. When the Rohingya exodus happened, there was no moderator in a local language. If you look at the number of moderators per million of population, India would be one of the lowest in the world. In India, there are many languages and nuance. Dog whistling is different in every language. None of these platforms are able to do that because they don't want to invest the money.

AR: The best platforms are developing systems and it is bound to involve a lot of AI to try and identify people who are trying to cause real harm. During the recent Southport riots in England, Mr. Musk himself was re-posting really dangerous stuff. You can't have social media being used to organise murder. That should be obvious. So, whether it is human fact-checkers and moderators or AI systems and content management moderation systems, most people think that you have got to have some systems to catch the worst behaviour. Otherwise, this technology can be used to cause immense harm.

What role do you think social media can play in building democracy?

PS: We confuse a communication system with a communication system controlled by monopolies. Any communication system which works well is great for citizens and for democracy; it will be used by people to put their voice out. We know what is happening in Palestine because it is being broadcast. The number of people who died in the Iraq war was much higher than the number of people who have died in Palestine. But Iraq happened when there was no social media. But when that same communication system is subsumed by the system committing the atrocity, it is a problem.

AR: Social media at its best is marvellous. On a platform like Facebook, there are, I think, three billion people who have the ability to publish and connect with each other. They are mostly using it for good purposes to organise, or for innocent purposes. So, it would be terrible to blacken all social media, abandon it or clamp down on it. But I think it is possible to stamp out the dangerous way of using social media.

We [news outlets] need to start by choosing a platform which is run on ethical lines and recreate the kind of reasonably civilised discourse which was good for journalism. From what I have seen of Bluesky, people are rejoicing in the fact that it feels purer.

PS: We have to have media and information literacy classes in schools where children learn how to look at different sources of information and process them. We need to think about decentralised communication systems. There will be challenges, but those aren't insurmountable.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Politics between polls

Elections are exciting for reporters. But it is what happens between them that enlightens us about the political shifts on the ground

Meera Srinivasan

On the morning of November 16, 2024, I was following the final tally of preferential votes secured by candidates in Sri Lanka's recent general elections. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's National People's Power (NPP) alliance won a historic mandate of more than a two-thirds majority. Vijitha Herath, the NPP candidate in Colombo's neighbouring Gampaha district, broke records by winning more than 7 lakh votes. He has been named Foreign Minister in the new government.

At the same time, a memory popped up on my social media. It was a short video clip of my interview with Mr. Herath six years ago. On November 16, 2018, Mr. Herath was among those injured when some people in the Rajapaksa camp violently attacked Members of Parliament who were challenging the sudden appointment of Mahinda Rajapaksa as Prime Minister in place of Ranil Wickremesinghe, who had been abruptly sacked by President Maithripala Sirisena. Sri Lanka was in the grip of a political impasse for some seven weeks until the Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Sirisena's move was illegal, and Mr. Wickremesinghe was reinstated.

In a fascinating coincidence, Mr. Herath, who in 2018 was a legislator with the opposition Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), made headlines the same day six years later as part of a new political force that has decimated the island's old political class, including the Rajapaksas, Mr. Sirisena, and Mr. Wickremesinghe.

It is as if decades happened in these six years in Sri Lanka. During this time, the island witnessed the deadly Easter Sunday serial blasts in April 2019, the election victory of Gotabaya Rajapaksa in November 2019, the pandemic from 2020, Mr. Gotabaya's mighty fall in July 2022 in the wake of a crippling economic crisis and a citizens' uprising, and now, the meteoric rise of Mr. Dissanayake and his political alliance. The near-erasure from Sri Lanka's electoral map of the country's traditional, once-powerful political parties and the political elite that controlled them signals a tectonic shift.

While polls are exciting news events for the media, reporters learn a lot more while covering what happens between elections. What seems a "tectonic" electoral shift is often the cumulative effect of many complex political changes on the ground, invariably tethered to how most people in a country are doing. As reporters, we have a distinct advantage. We don't have to predict precise poll outcomes; all we need to do is listen to diverse voices to try and capture voter sentiment in our coverage.

Invariably, this sort of ground reporting allows us to glean some clear pointers to a likely poll outcome, even if not the extent of someone's win. Both the defeat of Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2015 and the victory of Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2019 were not entirely surprising for many of us who report from Sri Lanka. That said, there are specific results that surprise us at times, either because our reading was biased or simply wrong. Either way, there is incentive to return to good, old-fashioned reporting.

In the case of the NPP's victory in Sri Lanka's recent election, the story, in a sense, began in 2018. With just six MPs in the 225-member House then, the JVP made compelling interventions in Parliament, besides moving the Supreme Court with others against Mr. Sirisena's anti-democratic, unconstitutional move. The NPP was set up the following year as a counter to the political establishment, which was tainted by allegations of serious corruption and nepotism. Not long after, the country witnessed an unprecedented mass struggle in 2022, staggering in its magnitude and intensity. The headless citizens' movement did what the political opposition couldn't: eject the powerful Rajapaksas from office. Two years later, the NPP is in power now, with 159 out of the 225 members in the new Parliament convened on November 21.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Under a blanket of toxic smog

Police personnel walk through Shakti Sthal, a memorial for former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in New Delhi on November 19. The air quality in the capital remained in the 'severe' or 'severe plus' category for days before impoving to the 'very poor' category on Thursday. In view of the situation, the Delhi government ordered half of its employees to work from home and urged the private sector to do the same. The Centre's pollution watchdog mandated the closure of schools in Delhi-NCR. ANI

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1974

Small ads. on post cards proposed

New Delhi, Nov. 21: The Communications Minister, Mr. S.D. Sharma, told the Lok Sabha to-day that small advertisements on post cards without reducing writing space and putting up of hoardings in the compounds of post office buildings were proposed to increase the revenue of the Post and Telegraphs Department.

Replying to the debate on the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1974, already passed by the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Sharma said certain other proposals were being considered to raise the huge funds required to improve the post and telegraph services.

The Bill which seeks to empower the Government to make rules for the levy of charges in respect of any application for providing any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus, was later passed by the Lok Sabha. The bill also validated the charges already levied from December 1, 1969.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1924

Public health in Burma

Rangoon, Nov. 21: His Excellency the Governor laid the foundation stone of Burma's Institute of Public Health, named after his Excellency, this evening. Major G.G. Jolly, Director of Public Health, in welcoming His Excellency and others emphasised the necessity for such an institute. He compared a public health department without laboratories to a backward child that has not yet developed its sensory faculties.

From Page One

Adani indicted in U.S. for bribery, fraud

In a statement, a spokesperson for the conglomerate said, "As stated by the U.S. Department of Justice itself, 'the charges in the indictment are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.' All possible legal recourse will be sought. The Adani Group has always upheld and is steadfastly committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance, transparency and regulatory compliance across all jurisdictions of its operations."

What does the indictment say?

The indictment concerns the actions of the defendants between 2020 and 2024. The defendants are Mr. Gautam Adani; Mr. Sagar Adani, Executive Director of Adani Green Energy; Vneet S Jaain, former CEO of Adani Green Energy; Ranjit Gupta, former CEO of Azure Power Global; Mr. Cyril Cabanes, a former managing director at CDPQ, a Canadian pension fund which is also a majority stockholder of Azure Power; Saurabh Agarwal, former managing director of CDPQ India; Deepak Malhotra, former executive of CDPQ, and Rupesh Agarwal, former CEO of Azure Power.

Under the U.S.'s Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, 1977 (FCPA), it is unlawful to make payments to foreign government officials in a bid to obtain or retain business. It is also a criminal offence to raise money by misleading investors about key corporate governance practices, which this case concerns compliance with the FCPA.

Further, it is unlawful to obstruct federal investigations by giving false information and destroying evidence such as electronic communications. It is also a separate offence to hide the authorisation of bribery practices in company annual reports. The defendants have been charged with offences on all these counts.

The indictment also charges the defendants with obstructing a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) probe by falsely denying their participation in the bribery scheme to FBI agents. Mr. Sagar Adani came to know of the FBI investigation, as well the people under the FBI scanner when, in March 2023, FBI agents in the U.S. served him a copy of a search warrant and took possession of his electronic devices.

The search warrant clearly "identified offences, individuals and entities under investigation" and mentioned the violations of the FCPA, securities fraud, wire fraud and related conspiracies involving Mr. Gautam Adani and Adani Green Energy. And yet, subsequently, Gautam and Sagar caused others to make false and misleading statements regarding their awareness and knowledge of the United States government's investigation and its subjects, which enabled them to raise a dollar-denominated syndicate loan of $1.36 billon for Adani Green.

According to the indictment, starting in 2020, the defendants authorised and collaborated on a scheme to pay over $250 million in bribes to Indian government officials in order to secure solar power purchase contracts for Adani Green Energy and Azure Power from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a company of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, whose mission is to increase use of renewable energy in India.

Unable to find buyers

The U.S. DoJ indictment has alleged that the Adanis resorted to a bribery scheme because the SECI was unable to find buyers among State distribution companies (discoms) for the Adanis' solar power, whose price was above market rates. But many State discoms did subsequently sign sale agreements with the SECI to buy the Adanis' more expensive renewable power.

The indictment notes that "following the promise of bribes to Indian government officials-...between July 2021 and February 2022, electricity distribution companies for the States and regions of Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh entered into PSAs [Power Sale Agreements) with the SECI".

Further, "Andhra Pradesh's electricity distribution companies entered into a PSA with the SECI on or about December 1, 2021 after which the State agreed to purchase approximately seven gigawatts of solar power, by far the largest amount of any Indian State or region."

Consensus on climate finance goal elusive

As per the Paris Agreement, a new target above $100 billion must be agreed upon by 2025.

A crucial point that is to be resolved is making a clear distinction between the NCQG and climate finance in general. Climate finance technically includes every dollar that is even remotely connected to some aspect of 'climate' and therefore includes profit-making business investments as well. By this metric, there is agreement that global climate finance flows in 2021-2022 increased by 63% compared to 2019-2020, reaching an annual average of $1.3 trillion.

Fissures on finance

According to a contentious paragraph in the current version of the agreement text made public on Thursday morning, a block of developing countries have submitted that the NCQG must be 'x' trillion dollars annually, from 2025 till 2035, to be made available to all developing countries as grants or low-cost loans. This money must be provided not only to help countries meet their nationally determined contributions but also buffer against existing threats of climate change and compensate for climate damage that has already taken place.

Mahayuti and MVA pin hopes on increased voter turnout

Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis sees 'pro-incumbency' trend, voters' 'affinity' towards BJP-led govt.; Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut sounds confident of unseating ruling alliance

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The rise in voter turnout on Wednesday for the Maharashtra Assembly election, compared with the 2019 figure, has been claimed as a sign of support by both the ruling Mahayuti alliance and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), each interpreting it to its advantage. Votes will be counted on November 23.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis attributed the rise in turnout – provisionally recorded at 65% compared with 61.74% in 2019 – to a "pro-incumbency" trend and voters' "affinity" towards the BJP-led Mahayuti government. He expressed confidence that this trend would help the alliance retain power.

"The increased voting percentage in Maharashtra generally favours the BJP and our alliance partners. It reflects pro-incumbency and the sense of connection voters feel with the government," he said. The BJP leader also credited the participation of women voters to initiatives such as the Ladki Bahin scheme.

The Election Commission provisionally recorded voter turnout for the Maharashtra polls at 65% compared with 61.74% in 2019. ANI

On the other hand, the Opposition Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray or UBT) MP Sanjay Raut expressed optimism over the MVA's prospects, predicting a victory by winning 160-165 seats in the 288-member Assembly. "We and our allies, including smaller parties like the PWP (Peasants and Workers Party), Samajwadi Party (SP), and the Left, are crossing the majority mark. I am confident we will form a stable government," Mr. Raut said.

The BJP-led Mahayuti comprises the BJP, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), while the MVA includes Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, the Congress, and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP).

While both alliances are eyeing control of the State, the Mahayuti is determined to retain power, and the MVA hopes to capitalise on the momentum of the 2024 Lok Sabha election and "change" narrative.

Exit polls have largely predicted a victory for the BJP-led alliance, although some have indicated a potential edge for the MVA.

When asked about the next Chief Minister, Mr. Fadnavis said the alliance partners would collectively decide on the leadership if the Mahayuti won the election.

When asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's demand for the arrest of industrialist Gautam Adani over bribery allegations in the U.S., the BJP leader dismissed it, saying, "Rahul Gandhi speaks every day, and there's nothing significant in it."

11 held for vandalism at polling booths in Maharashtra's Beed

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

A day after incidents of violence and intimidation marred the Assembly election in a few pockets of Maharashtra, the State police have taken action, arresting 11 persons for damaging an electronic voting machine and vandalising several polling stations in Beed district.

A polling booth was vandalised at Someshwar School in Agriculture Minister Dhananjay Munde's Parli constituency, and a Nationalist Congress Party (SP) worker, Madhav Jadhav from Ghatnandur, was attacked by unidentified individuals at Kanherwadi village.

"We went to stop the bogus voting of Mr. Munde's goons, but I was only attacked. Now police have arrested people, I hope they will be punished," Mr. Jadhav told *The Hindu*.

According to the police, a few officials were also attacked by the accused, who were carrying wooden sticks.

A vandalised polling booth in Ghatnandur village of Beed district on November 20. ANI

Several other booths were also vandalised in Ghatnandur village in Ambajogai Taluka, where police have registered a case against at least 35 people and arrested 11, according to the Beed Superintendent's office. "We arrested at least 11 people who vandalised and harmed the booths and EVM," a Beed official told *The Hindu*.

The accused were booked under Sections 109 (charges of attempt to murder), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), and 132 (criminal force against a public servant) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and under sections of the Representation of the People Act.

Army picks up locals daily in J&K, five men beaten up: sarpanch

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Army on Thursday faced allegations of harassment of civilians and torture of five persons in custody in the Chenab Valley's Kishtwar district in Jammu region, which has seen a rise in militancy and frequent gunbattles this year. The Army has ordered a probe into the incident.

"Villages in my panchayat are the worst sufferers since the militants killed two Village Defence Guards [on November 9]. There is hardly a day when 10 to 12 residents are not picked up, detained and interrogated," Farooq Ahmed Kripak, sarpanch of Keshwan, Kishtwar, told *The Hindu* over the phone.

The situation allegedly took an ugly turn on Wednesday when four civilians were rounded up around 1 p.m. and released with injuries and torture marks on their bodies around 6 p.m.

"All the victims are less than or around 30 years old. Those who bore injury marks were Sajad Hussain, Mehraj Din, Ghulam Hassan, Mushtaq Ahmad and Abdul Kabir," Mr. Kripak said.

The sarpanch said the villagers are in a state of shock after the frequent detentions. He met senior officials of the J&K Police and the Army officer to address the issue on Wednesday.

"I was assured by the Army's top official that no one will be rounded up now onwards. However, I just received a call [on Thursday] from locals that around 12 youths have been summoned to the Army installation tomorrow. One among those is over 65-years old," Mr. Kripak said.

Jharkhand records 67.74% turnout in election

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

Sharing final figures of the second phase of polling in the Jharkhand Assembly election, Chief Electoral Officer K. Ravi Kumar said the second phase saw a voter turnout of 68.95%. Polling in 38 constituencies, comprising 14,218 booths, concluded peacefully on Wednesday with a higher turnout than the first phase.

"Turnout was 68.95% in the second phase. The voting percentage will increase further after the counting of postal ballots. Overall voting percentage in both phases was 67.74. Once again, in the second phase, women voters outnumbered men. Rural voters were ahead compared to those in urban areas," Mr. Kumar said while addressing the media at Nirvachan Sadan in Ranchi.

Kuki-Zo student bodies withdraw CRPF boycott call

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kuki-Zo student bodies in Manipur withdrew their "non-cooperation" call against CRPF personnel on Thursday.

More than 200 companies, or about 20,000 personnel, of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are deployed in the State in addition to Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

The student bodies had declared a non-cooperation movement against the CRPF after the November 11 incident in Jiribam district in which 10 armed militants were killed in firing by the Central forces.

Village volunteers

The tribal bodies said that those killed were village volunteers.

The armed men were killed in a retaliatory fire by CRPF personnel when they attacked a CRPF camp and the nearby Borobekra police station on November 11.

Six Meitei people – three women and three children – were allegedly abducted and killed by other armed militants who were part of the same group, while two others were burnt to death. The victims were living in a relief camp in proximity to the CRPF camp.

To protest the killings of the armed militants, Kuki-Zo bodies announced a boycott call against the CRPF in other districts.

A joint statement by various Kuki-Zo student bodies said that the the "Non-Cooperation movement against the CRPF has been withdrawn with immediate effect".

The decision comes after high-level discussions between the CRPF leadership and various student bodies, it said.

Opposition for extension of JPC tenure on Waqf Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition members of the Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill sought an extension of the panel's tenure, after Chairman Jagdambika Pal announced that Thursday's sitting was its last and a draft report would be circulated soon.

Parliament had given the committee deadline till the first week of the Winter Session to submit its report.

The 19-day session begins on November 25.

Mr. Pal's announcement that Thursday's sitting was the last and that the Committee Secretariat would shortly be distributing the draft report, drew howls of protests from MPs. Opposition members raised slogans and there was a heated exchange of words between the two sides.

Sanjay Murthy assumes office as India's new CAG

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Indian Administrative Service officer K. Sanjay Murthy on Thursday assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

The 1989-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu, who demitted office on Wednesday.

Prior to this, Mr. Murthy was Secretary in the Department of Higher Education of the Education Ministry. He has also served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, as Chief Executive Officer of National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation and as Joint Secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office and secrecy.

World should embrace Buddhist doctrines to resolve conflicts: Rajnath

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The world should embrace Buddhist doctrines to find solutions to the ongoing conflicts and challenges to the international order, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said at a regional security conclave in Laos on Thursday.

India has always advocated and adopted dialogue-based solutions to resolving complex international issues and its approach to a wide range of international challenges from border disputes to trade agreements, he told an audience of his counterparts from a number of countries, including China's Defence Minister Dong Jun.

The Defence Minister made the remarks at the conclave of the 10-nation ASEAN grouping and some of its dialogue partners, held in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in Vientiane, Laos on Thursday. ANI

"With the world increasingly getting polarised into blocks and camps, leading to increasing strain on the established world order, it is time that the Buddhist doctrines of peaceful coexistence are embraced more closely by all," he said, adding than an open dialogue promotes sustainable relationships.

India, Australia firm up air-to-air refuelling deal

NEW DELHI

India and Australia have firmed up an arrangement to enable the air forces of the two countries to carry out air-to-air refuelling. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Australian counterpart Pat Conroy announced the deal in Vientiane on Thursday.

Top court suggests setting up courtroom in jail for Yasin Malik

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday orally suggested setting up a courtroom in jail in Delhi for Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik in the face of strong objection raised by the Central Bureau of Investigation to a Jammu court order allowing his physical presence in a criminal trial connected to the killing of four Air Force personnel in 1989.

Justice A.S. Oka said a fair trial was afforded to even 26/11 Mumbai attack terrorist Ajmal Kasab in response to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's submission that Mr. Malik was not "just another terrorist".

Mr. Mehta, for the Central agency, said: "We, that is the government, cannot go by the book in this case". He submitted that Mr. Malik was playing tricks with the courts.

APPEAL

Master Laksh Sachdeva son of Deepak Sachdeva 8 years admitted in Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre is a diagnosed case of Thalassemia Major. He is admitted for Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplant. The approximate cost of treatment at hospital is **Rs. 15,00,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Laksh Sachdeva. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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A 'bribery scheme' to bag lucrative solar power deals

The indictment of Gautam Adani and his business associates by the U.S. Department of Justice details how the alleged bribery scheme was systematically piloted over time and across jurisdictions using 'Bribery Notes', in-person meetings, PowerPoint slides, and Excel analyses of different payment options; it also gives details of the multiple meetings among the 'co-conspirators'

G. Sampath
NEW DELHI

The indictment of industrialist Gautam Adani and his business associates by the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) presents detailed allegations regarding the processes followed by senior executives of Adani Green Energy Ltd. and Azure Power Global Ltd. (a renewable energy company headquartered in New Delhi, which used to be listed on the New York stock exchange) to bribe Indian government officials and secure lucrative solar power contracts.

The indictment starts by explaining the alleged motivation for resorting to a bribery scheme. Between December 2019 and July 2020, Azure Power and a subsidiary of Adani Green Energy won, and were issued, letters of award (LOAs) for a manufacturing-linked solar tender offered by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a company of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy whose mission is to increase the use of renewable energy.

As part of this award, Azure Power and Adani Green's subsidiary would supply 4 GW and 8 GW of solar power, respectively, to the SECI, which would buy it at a fixed rate. The SECI, in turn, had to find State electricity distribution companies (discoms) that would purchase this 12 GW of solar power.

High prices

However, "the high energy prices" set out in the LOA made it impossible for the SECI to find buyers, thus jeopardising the "lucrative LOAs and corresponding revenue", notes the indictment.

As a result, "Gautam S. Adani, Sagar R. Adani [Mr. Gautam's nephew and executive director of Adani Green Energy], Vneet S. Jaain [former CEO of Adani Green Energy], Ranjit Gupta [former CEO of Azure Power Global]... among others, devised a scheme to offer, authorise, make and promise to make bribe payments to Indian government officials" in exchange for the said officials getting the State discoms to enter into PSAs (power sale agreements) with the SECI. The PSAs would then allow Adani Green and Azure Power to secure PPAs (power purchase agreements) with the SECI. It was agreed that Azure Power "would pay for a portion of the promised bribes".

The co-conspirators regularly discussed the progress of the plans on their mobile phones, using "an electronic messaging application". Mr. Gautam Adani "personally met with "Foreign Official #1 in Andhra Pradesh" in August, September, and November 2021.

The "co-conspirators" promised to Indian government officials around ₹2,029 crore ($265 million) of bribes. Of this, around ₹1,750 crore was offered to Andhra Pradesh's "Foreign Official #1".

Between July 2021 and February 2022, discoms "for the States and regions of Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh entered into PSAs with SECI".

Further, "Andhra Pradesh's electricity distribution companies entered into a PSA with SECI on or about December 1, 2021" after which the State agreed to "purchase approximately seven gigawatts of solar power, by far the largest amount of any Indian State or region".

With the PSAs done, between October 2021 and February 2022, Adani Green and Azure Power, through subsidiaries, executed PPAs with the SECI. It was agreed that Azure Power would supply 650 MW of solar power to the SECI for Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and J&K (hereafter "the 650 MW PPAs") and 2.3 GW for Andhra Pradesh (hereafter 2.3 GW PPAs). Likewise, Adani Green's subsidiaries also executed PPAs with the SECI covering the same States and regions.

Bribe notes

The indictment states that while this bribery scheme was unfolding, Mr. Sagar Adani was tracking on his mobile phone the "specific details of the bribes offered and promised to government officials". These "Bribe Notes" identified the State or region for which officials had been offered a bribe, the total amount of the offered bribe, and the amount of solar power the State or region would agree to purchase for a bribe.

"The Bribe Notes also identified the per megawatt rate for the total bribe amount offered, the abbreviated titles of the government officials who would receive the bribes, and/or the allocation of the total bribe amount among government officials" within each State or region.

The indictment details the multiple meetings between Mr. Gautam Adani, Mr. Vneet S. Jaain, and the "co-conspirators" to get Azure Power to pay its share of the bribe amount. "In anticipation of the meeting", it states, "Jaain used his cellular phone to photograph a document summarising the amounts" Azure Power owed Adani Green "for its respective portion of the bribes".

Apparently, Azure Power owed Adani Green ₹55 crore "for the bribes that were promised to secure the 650 MW PPAs" and ₹583 crore "for the bribes that were promised to secure the 2.3 GW PPAs".

In one such bribery coordination meeting, Mr. Gautam Adani allegedly "presented multiple options" by which Azure Power could conceal satisfaction of its portion of the bribe payments, including by transferring the 2.3 GW PPAs to Adani Green or its subsidiaries. To help the Azure Power management decide "which corrupt payment option was best", one of the alleged co-conspirators, Rupesh Agarwal, a former CEO of Azure Power, prepared "multiple analyses using PowerPoint and Excel".

The indictment alleges that the co-conspirators eventually agreed that Azure Power would return the 2.3 GW PPAs to the SECI, with the understanding that Adani Green or its subsidiary would acquire it for itself, "thereby satisfying a portion of" Azure Power's bribery obligations.

Azure Power also agreed to pay Adani Green "its portion – approximately $7 million – of the bribe payments promised [by Adani Green] to Indian government officials" to secure the 650 MW PPAs, which would facilitate Azure Power retaining the project.

Mr. Agarwal and other senior executives of Azure Power then obtained Board approval for returning the 2.3 GW PPAs to the SECI by obfuscating the true reasons for this move and citing "deteriorating economics". Around November 22, 2022, Azure Power's Board of Directors authorised sending a letter to the SECI about withdrawing from the 2.3 GW PPAs. On the same day, Mr. Sagar Adani allegedly sent an electronic message to Mr. Gautam Adani stating that there is a Board meeting "where they are expected to approve the final letter to be sent to SECI. We will keep close track and chase it up properly". Mr. Gautam Adani allegedly replied, "Ok".

The actual letter from Azure Power to the SECI was sent on December 7, 2022. On December 8, Mr. Sagar Adani sent an electronic message to Mr. Gautam Adani, stating that Azure Power "has finally submitted letter to SECI today...will follow for next steps closely". The indictment concludes from these exchanges that the Adanis "were secretly directing [Azure Power's] return of the 2.3 GW PPAs to SECI".

The alleged bribery scheme fructified finally on March 18, 2024, the day "SECI sent letters to [Azure Power] terminating the 2.3 GW PPAs, authorising reallocation of the 2.3 GW PPAs to [Adani Green's] subsidiary and affirming [Azure Power's] obligation to continue developing the 650 MW PPAs".

Elaborate plan

How the alleged bribery scheme unfolded

Dec. 2019-July 2020: The Solar Energy Corporation of India inks pact to buy 8 GW of solar power from Adani Green and 4 GW from Azure Power

- Under the agreement, SECI has to find State discoms that would buy the 12 GW of solar power

2020: High prices make it tough for SECI to find buyers

- Gautam Adani, along with nephew Sagar, Vneet S. Jaain and other officials, come up with a scheme to "offer, authorise, make and promise to make bribe payments to Indian government officials" to find buyers for SECI

Aug. to Nov. 2021: Gautam Adani meets Andhra Pradesh "official"

- "Co-conspirators" promise to Indian government officials around ₹2,029 cr. of bribes. Of this, around ₹1,750 cr. is offered to the official in Andhra Pradesh

July 2021 to Feb. 2022: Electricity firms in Odisha, J&K, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and A.P. enter deals to buy power from SECI

April 2022: Gautam, Vneet, and Sagar meet Azure officials; Adanis present "multiple options" how Azure could repay Adani Green around ₹638 crore for its share of the bribes

June 2022: Some Azure executives and the Adanis finalise the mechanism to facilitate the payment by returning the power purchase agreements for 2.3 GW to SECI, which it would then award to Adani Green

March 2024: SECI allows reallocation of 2.3 GW of purchase deals from Azure Power to Adani Green's unit

T.N. has no commercial link with Adani Group firms, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
KARUR

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister V. Senthilbalaji on Thursday said that there was no commercial link between the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) and the Adani Group companies in any manner.

Reacting to the reports on the indictment of industrialist Gautam Adani and seven others in a U.S. court on charges of fraud and bribery, Mr. Senthilbalaji said that he had read social media posts about the allegations against Mr. Adani.

"I make it clear that as far as the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board was concerned, there was no commercial link with the Adani group of firms over the last three years. There was no link whatsoever with the Adani Group in any manner," he insisted.

V. Senthilbalaji

Mr. Senthilbalaji said the State government had entered into memorandums of understanding with companies which were under the control of the Department of Energy of the Union government, to procure electricity.

The MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) was among the MoUs with Union government-owned firms.

The SECI had entered into MoUs with firms producing electricity so as to supply power to the States. Depending upon the demands from various States, it was supplying electricity. Tamil Nadu had entered into an agreement with the SECI to purchase 1,500 MW of power. The procurement price was ₹2.61 a unit, which was very low. The State, during the AIADMK regime, paid ₹7 a unit, he said.

The issue of linking Adani with Tangedco pertains to its proposal to purchase 500 MW of solar power through the SECI for which the discom had given a power purchase agreement petition to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) on October 10, 2023.

The proposed purchase was to fulfil the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) of the State government. The TNERC had passed an order regarding this petition on May 7, 2024, in which it approved the purchase of 500 MW: 200 MW at a tentative cost of ₹2.72 per kilowatt hour and 300 MW at ₹2.73 per kilowatt hour.

In the petition, Tangedco stated that the shortfall would range from 2,177 MW for the financial year 2022-23 to 12,957 MW in 2029-30.

Tangedco had agreed to purchase the solar power through SECI to avoid being penalised by the Ministry of Power for 'non-compliance' of RPO.

(With inputs from R. Srikanth in Chennai)

Former A.P. CM accused of taking ₹1,750 cr. for power purchase deal

Appaji Reddem
AMARAVATI

The Power Supply Agreements (PSAs) by Andhra Pradesh's electricity distribution companies are under the scanner in the $265-million bribery case unearthed by the United States.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) indictment has accused Adani Group of bribing the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, and other officials. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was the CM during the period.

Andhra Pradesh had agreed to buy 7 gigawatts of solar power. In August 2021, Gautam Adani had met with the then CM of Andhra Pradesh, about the fact that the State had not entered into a Power Supply Agreement with the SECI and the "incentives" needed to encourage Andhra Pradesh to do so, stated the SEC.

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

"Sagar Adani had a subsequent meeting with the Chief Minister on September 12, 2021. Post these meetings, the Adanis (Gautam and Sagar) paid or promised a bribe to Andhra Pradesh government officials to make the relevant Andhra Pradesh government entities enter into PSAs with the SECI for the purchase of 7,000 MW of power capacity. Adani Green's records and later statements by Adani Green executives to the Azure Chairman indicated that the Andhra Pradesh bribe payment was approximately $200 million (₹1,750 crore). Shortly after these meetings, Andhra Pradesh agreed in principle to execute a PSA with the SECI that would directly benefit Adani Green and Azure," the SEC stated. Within a few weeks, the government was quoted as saying, "In the Cabinet meeting held last month, it was decided to accept SECI's offer. After deliberation, the State decided to tap 7,000 MW in the first phase."

The YSR Congress Party central office, Tadepalli, Guntur, through a release, denied the allegations. It stated that the Andhra Pradesh government received an offer from SECI to supply 7,000 MW of power at the lowest discovered tariff of ₹2.49 per kWh.

The statement said that the power procurement was approved by the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission through its order dated November 11, 2021. Then, an agreement was signed between SECI and A.P. Discoms. This was after the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's nod as well. "It is necessary to mention that SECI is a Government of India enterprise. There is no direct agreement between AP DISCOMs and any other entities including those belonging to the Adani Group," it said.

Adani will not be arrested in India because Modi is protecting him, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday demanded the immediate arrest of Gautam Adani after the billionaire industrialist was charged in the U.S. for alleged bribery and fraud. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of protecting Mr. Adani and also demanded removal of SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch.

"American investigations have found him culpable in a ₹2,000 crore scam. He should be arrested immediately. Madhabi Buch who has been protecting Mr. Adani should be arrested too," Mr. Gandhi said at a press conference.

Rahul Gandhi

He said he is very confident that the government will not take any action against Mr. Adani. "I can guarantee that Adani won't be arrested or investigated in India because the Modi government is protecting him," Mr. Gandhi said.

Taking a jibe at Mr. Modi's "*ek hain to safe hain* (together we are safe)" slogan, Mr. Gandhi said as long as the Prime Minister and Gautam Adani are together, "they are safe" in India.

Asked about some States ruled by non-BJP parties being named by the U.S. prosecutors, he said: "Wherever this has happened, be it any government, there should be an investigation. But the one involved in the corruption should be jailed. The investigations have to begin with Mr. Adani's arrest. Arrest Mr. Adani, interrogate him, and arrest all those who were involved with him. You will find that the Prime Minister's name too will crop up in the investigation. Because BJP's funding structure is in Mr. Adani's hand which is why even if the PM wanted, he cannot do anything. India is currently under Mr. Adani's grip," Mr. Gandhi said.

BJP dares Congress to approach court on the charges involving Adani Group entity in U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday said the Congress should approach the court with the charges involving an Adani Group company instead of only raising the issue in the media, pointing out that none of the four Indian States mentioned in the U.S. court document had a BJP government during the time period in question.

On the allegations, BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra said it was for the private company to issue a response in its defence, and that the law would take its own course.

"Documents are in the public domain... the issue pertains to electricity sale-purchase agreements and agreements with State Distribution Companies (SDCs) and the relevant time period is from July 2021 to February 2022. India's four States have been named in U.S. court. At that time, Congress's Bhupesh Baghel's government was in Chhattisgarh, there was YSRCP rule in Andhra Pradesh, the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) government was in Tamil Nadu, and Biju Janata Dal was in power in Odisha," Mr. Patra said.

"Rahul Gandhi said he has no objection to any of his former Chief Ministers or leaders being interrogated. Then let Bhupesh Baghel be interrogated. The Ministers under whom the Electricity Department fell in the respective States should also be questioned. Why would we have any objections?" he said.

> Your [Congress] entire structure involving the likes of George Soros and Ilhan Omar wants to keep damaging Indian markets
>
> **SAMBIT PATRA**
> BJP MP and spokesperson

He accused Mr. Gandhi and the Congress of continuously attempting to damage Indian markets. "Your entire structure involving the likes of George Soros and Ilhan Omar (American representative) wants to keep damaging Indian markets. You cannot tolerate the fact that the Indian economy is racing towards the third position in the world," Mr. Patra alleged.

"Since 4 a.m. today, the entire structure is alive on social media, sending 'signals' even to the international markets. The consequence is that about 2.5 crore small investors lost their hard-earned money," the BJP leader said.

"Mr. Gandhi today said that PM was behind Mr. Adani. In that case, why did the Congress's Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh accept ₹25,000-crore investment from an Adani company? In Rajasthan, in the Ashok Gehlot government, ₹65,000-crore investment by an Adani company was allowed – why? In Karnataka, where the Congress is still in power, ₹1 lakh-crore investment was promised; we don't know right now as to how much of it was done," he said.

Mr. Patra said that in West Bengal, an investment of ₹35,000 crore had been made by the same group. In Andhra Pradesh, the figure was ₹60,000 crore, and it was ₹4,500 crore in Tamil Nadu. "On October 19, 2024, Adani Foundation donated ₹100 crore for skill upliftment in Telangana, ruled by the Congress government. Why did you take that donation from a 'corrupt' person?" he said, adding that in January 2024, the Telangana government had signed an estimated ₹12,400-crore MoU with Adani Group companies.

"Be it the 2G case, Commonwealth Games case, or the coal scam – on all these issues, the BJP went to court. You should also do the same. And, you [Mr. Gandhi] said the Congress has to do the judiciary's work as well. There should be *suo motu* cognisance for contempt on such a remark," Mr. Patra said.

INBRIEF

'No mention of wrongdoing by SECI in Adani case'

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), the nodal agency for the implementation of renewable projects in India, has not been mentioned for any wrongdoing in the Adani case, its chairman and managing director (CMD) R.P. Gupta (in picture) said on Thursday. Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by U.S. prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay $265 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts. "There is nothing against SECI. It has done nothing wrong. That is no where. There is no mention of any wrongdoing or irregularity on part of SECI," he said. PTI

Farooq Abdullah asks Centre to probe Adani's indictment

With the Union Territory's J&K Power Corporation Limited among companies listed in the U.S. Department of Justice's five-count criminal indictment of billionaire Gautam Adani, National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Thursday demanded a probe into it. Asking the Centre to take these allegations "seriously", the former J&K Chief Minister said, "If it has happened, it needs to be investigated. There is a demand for a JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee). I hope the Centre will take it seriously and investigate into what has happened and the causes. It's a serious issue and the Centre should look into it."

Sri Lanka 'should be vigilant' about Adani power deal, caution experts

President Dissanayake's govt. had earlier said it would revisit deal after the parliamentary polls; apart from opposition to its 'backdoor entry' in the absence of an open call for tenders, the project has also received flak from environmentalists

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka should be vigilant about the Adani power project on the island, experts said on Thursday, after Federal prosecutors in New York indicted Group chairman Gautam Adani and seven others on multiple counts of fraud.

Sri Lanka has often seen cases of significant corruption in the country being exposed in other jurisdictions, according to Nishan De Mel, executive director of Verité Research, a Colombo-based think tank.

He referred to the allegations of bribery in Sri Lankan Airlines's purchase of aircraft from Airbus, which surfaced in a United Kingdom-based investigation a few years ago, and to the Pandora Papers that threw up names of local politicians and businessmen. "It is very important for Sri Lanka to redouble its efforts against corruption, to ensure that we are protected from corrupt deals," he told *The Hindu*.

After news on the alleged bribery scheme of the Adani Group surfaced on Thursday, many citizens and activists in Sri Lanka took to social media and called for greater scrutiny of the Group's power project on the island. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who won the presidency in September, and his National People's Power (NPP) alliance, which secured a historic two-thirds majority in the November 14 general election, have pledged to root out corruption. Days before his election win, Mr. Dissanayake vowed to cancel the "corrupt Adani deal" if his government came to power. Subsequently, Foreign Minister and Cabinet spokesperson of the interim administration said the government would "review" the project after the parliamentary polls.

Former President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Gautam Adani during a meeting in New Delhi in July 2023. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Controversial deal

Adani Green Energy is investing $442 million in a wind power project in Mannar and Pooneryn in northern Sri Lanka. From the time the former Gotabaya Rajapaksa government roped in the firm in 2022, the project has remained controversial. The main political opposition accused the conglomerate of "backdoor entry", in the absence of an open call for tenders. The same year, a top Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) official told a Parliamentary panel that the project was given to the Adani Group after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "pressured" President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The official subsequently resigned, after withdrawing his original statement.

Regardless, the Ranil Wickremesinghe administration went ahead with the project. When the Adani Group came under the global spotlight in early 2023, and its stocks plummeted in the wake of U.S. short seller Hindenburg accusing it of pulling the "largest con in corporate history", then Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Ali Sabry said the Wickremesinghe administration was "very, very confident" of the future of the project, which it saw as a "government-to-government" deal with India.

Earlier this year, environmentalists and Mannar residents moved Sri Lanka's Supreme Court, challenging the project on grounds of potential environmental impact and "lack of transparency". The case was taken up by a five-member Bench and the next hearing is scheduled for March 18 and 19, 2025, according to sources.

The U.S. indictment of the firm now "bolsters" the NPP's argument for reviewing the project in Sri Lanka, noted Shihar Aneez, a consultant editor with the Colombo-based news portal *Economynext*.

"Right from the beginning there has been ambiguity over whether the Adani project is a government-to-government deal with India, or a private sector investment," the financial journalist said.

The credibility of Adani projects has come into question not just in the U.S., but also in the region, he noted, pointing to the Bangladesh High Court recently ordering a high-level probe to re-examine the country's power purchase agreement with the Group. Going forward, the Dissanayake government must revisit the project with an open tender process, Mr. Aneez said, adding, "If Adani Green wins the bid through that process, then they are welcome... The Sri Lankan government has greater bargaining power now."

Kenya cancels proposed deals with Adani group

Associated Press
NAIROBI

Kenya's president said on Thursday that he has cancelled multimillion-dollar airport expansion and energy deals with industrialist Gautam Adani after U.S. bribery and fraud indictments against him.

President William Ruto, in a state of the nation address, said the decision was made "based on new information provided by our investigative agencies and partner nations".

The Adani group had been in the process of signing an agreement that would modernise Kenya's main airport in the capital, Nairobi, with an additional runway and terminal constructed, in exchange for the group running the airport for 30 years.

The deal had sparked anti-Adani protests in Kenya and a strike by airport workers, who said it would lead to degraded working conditions and job losses.

The Adani group had also been awarded a deal to construct power transmission lines in Kenya. Energy Minister Opiyo Wandayi told a parliamentary committee there had been no bribery or corruption involved on Kenya's part in signing that deal.

After U.S. indictment, conglomerate will face greater pressure in Bangladesh over power deal, says expert

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Indictment of Gautam Adani and several top officials of the Adani conglomerate in the U.S. may become a factor in future negotiations between the Adani Group and the interim government in Bangladesh, energy experts in Dhaka have said. The criminal proceedings against Mr. Adani came a day after the High Court in Dhaka ordered a probe into the 1,600-megawatt power deal that allowed the Adani Group to export electricity from its Godda power plant to Bangladesh.

"The energy agreement between Adani and Sheikh Hasina government was controversial from the beginning as this contract, like many other energy contracts of Hasina years, was not done through tendering. Despite that the interim government had taken a positive approach and tried to continue dialogue. But after the U.S. indictment, that space of dialogue may shrink as the group is likely to face greater pressure from Bangladesh to compromise on pricing," said Ijaz Hossein, former Professor of the Bangladesh Institute of Engineering and Technology.

The Ministry of External Affairs did not comment on the ongoing uncertainty over Adani Power in Bangladesh. Officials pointed out, however, that India had continued to supply electricity under the G2G agreements, and would not intervene unless required in the arrangements with a "private" company.

Adani Power Ltd. (APL), a part of the Adani conglomerate, had started supplying power from the first 800-MW ultra-super critical thermal power generation unit in Jharkhand in April 2023. The ambitious project aimed to cater to the growing energy market of Bangladesh, which had become an attractive destination of international energy majors. Dr. Hossein pointed out that Adani offered a deal that appeared interesting in the beginning as it promised to bring coal from Australia and Indonesia to meet Bangladeshi demand. Bangladesh lacked a deep sea port to handle large coal shipments and Adani's offer made sense. "However, critics here had started saying that Adani, which apparently received government subsidy in India, did not transfer that benefit to Bangladesh," Dr. Hossein said.

The latest order by the court for a high-level probe into the deal will give Dhaka an opportunity to review its energy pact. REUTERS

The project's pricing was an issue even during Ms. Hasina's tenure though it is believed that the matter was handled to Adani's advantage because of better political relations between India and Bangladesh. In 2023, Bangladesh Power Development Board had written to Adani Power seeking revision of the price. Adani had quoted $400 per tonne, but BPDB argued it should be less than $250 a tonne as that was the price they had paid for other coal-fired power plants.

Adani's 2017 power deal with Bangladesh faced a major challenge with the fall of the Hasina government on August 5. With the fall of the Awami League government, several energy projects, especially coal power plants came under scrutiny. A special committee under the leadership of noted economist Debopriyo Bhattacharya had started scrutinising all power agreements under Hasina government that included the deal with Adani.

Despite negative public sentiment, the interim government under Mohammad Yunus, however, maintained dialogue with Adani Power, which had at a point threatened to suspend power supply over unpaid dues.

The interim government subsequently promised to process ₹1,450 crore allowing continued supply to Bangladesh. The latest move by the High Court ordering a high-level probe into the deal has come as a twist in the plot as it will give Dhaka another opportunity to relook at the entire energy deal.

CPI(M) seeks CBI inquiry into Adani bribery allegations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) must be directed to immediately file a case based on the material provided by the prosecution in the United States against industrialist Gautam Adani for allegedly bribing public servants in India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said on Thursday.

"It is shameful that such large-scale bribery and suborning of government officials by the Adanis had to be exposed not in India but in the United States through their criminal justice system," the CPI(M) said in a statement, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of protecting the industrialist. "Prime Minister Modi himself had shielded Adani from any enquiry or prosecution on the charges emanating from the Hindenburg expose," it added.

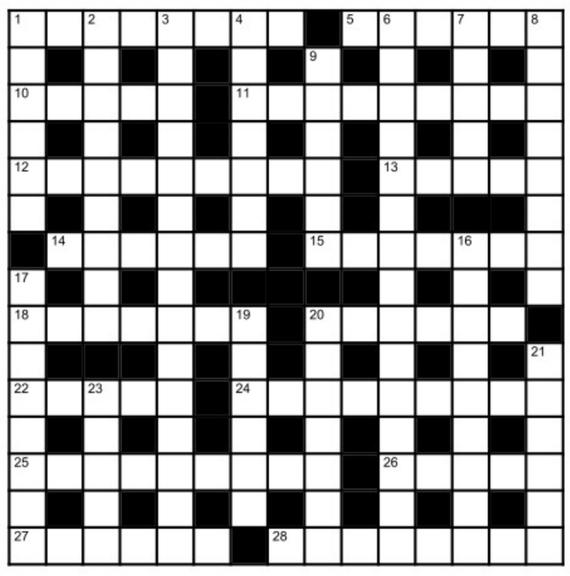
CPI general secretary D. Raja said that the indictment calls into question not just the personal integrity of Mr. Adani and his business empire but also the integrity of Indian watchdogs and the administration under which such unethical practices are flourishing. "From favourable policies to high-profile infrastructure deals, there is widespread public perception of the complicity of Prime Minister Modi. Repeated calls for investigation of all allegations – whether linked to bribery, stock manipulation, or regulatory failures – have fallen on the deaf ears of the Modi government. Only through a fair, unbiased probe can the truth be uncovered," he said.

CROSSWORD + 14337

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Four cavorting around beauty on vacation (8)
5 Posh project by director in hilly country (6)
10 Shot around hideout in American city (5)
11 Trusts lead character in Agatha Christie's novel (9)
12 Slim girl drinking liquor with member is buzzing (9)
13 Vibrating sound of insect revolving around entrance to warehouse (5)
14 Time unfaithful fellow's dumped, please (6)
15 Crushed by grenade, his ceiling burst open (7)
18 Plants with resin found in sanctuaries (7)
20 Interrupts copper beginning to tackle crime (4,2)
22 Learning about sportsman finally breaking record (5)
24 Badly hit after wife became very angry (5,1,3)
25 Cautiously popped a drug with partner (9)
26 Restrain German breaking rule (5)
27 Beautiful maidens and national politician involved in fling in retreat (6)
28 Sad indeed, but no - book's not ready for publication (8)

Down

1 English novelist travelling to Bern (6)
2 Subordinate is close to cracking after endless stress (9)
3 Stop tickling my body - that's ridiculous! (4,4,2,5)
4 Entertain and seduce stunner finally for date (7)
6 Naughtily pet hot women at dinner party (5,3,4,3)
7 Mania changes inner personality (5)
8 Decline to enter disastrous Eastern conflict (8)
9 Gained two grand after end of tombola in base (6)
16 Miser's wickedness crushing family - getting extremely fretful and tense (9)
17 Complete information about heartless emir, one provoking a reaction (8)
19 Small kitchen utensil without lid in sink (6)
20 Continue to cheat around, pester husband to leave (5,2)
21 High from just one drink (6)
23 Killing duke, hope to seize large province (5)

SUDOKU

3			7		4	6		
	1	6		8	5			
2								
	2	7		9				3
	3						7	
5				6		1	8	
								1
			1	2		7	6	
		3	5		6			9

No.SS6347 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	A	M	P	L	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	
M		U		O		E		U		A		N		H
A	L	L	C	O	M	E	R	S		S	C	E	N	E
N		L		S		D		T		T		W		M
T	R	I	T	E		E	X	O	N	E	R	A	T	E
I		G				R		M		L		Y		N
S	L	A	V	E	R				E	V	E	N		
		N		M		H		R		S		C		
			C	O	M	E			A	S	L	A	N	T
C		R		T		C		S				V		U
A	B	O	M	I	N	A	T	E		S	W	A	I	N
N		C		O		T		C		T		L		N
T	H	O	R	N			O	S	T	R	A	C	I	S	E
O		C		A		M		O		R		E		L
	C	O	L	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	O	R	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	5	6	8	9	1	3	4
6	1	9	3	2	4	8	5	7
3	8	4	1	5	7	6	2	9
9	6	3	8	7	2	5	4	1
1	5	8	4	9	3	7	6	2
7	4	2	5	1	6	9	8	3
4	9	7	2	6	5	3	1	8
8	3	6	7	4	1	2	9	5
5	2	1	9	3	8	4	7	6

FAITH

Ways to handle criticism

Tolerance and introspection (assessing one's own failings) are the hallmark of a true devotee. When someone abuses one verbally, one should not retaliate. Instead, one should shrug off the criticisms with the belief that God will take care of everything, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

Running down another person is not a new trend caused by social media explosion, but in fact an integral part of human nature. Centuries ago, Pillai Lokacharya laid down five principles on how to handle criticism. Born in the 13th century, he and his brother Azhagiya Manavala Perumal Nayanar were erudite scholars, ardent devotees of Lord Ranganantha. Pillai Lokacharya produced 18 treatises. Of these, Tatva Trayam, the Mumukshuppadi and Sri Vachana Bhusanam are considered very erudite and important.

In Sri Vachana Bhushanam, a work on the sayings of the Azhwars and Acharyas, explaining the nature of God, the self, bhakti and *prapatti* (surrender), Pillai Lokacharya elaborates on the five-pronged approach to handle criticism. He says, "*Kutrram ceytavarkalpakkal poraiyum krupaiyum cirippum ukappum upakara smrutiyum natakkal venum*." First, show patience; second, show mercy to the criticiser, since the poor man could end up being punished by God for his treatment of you; third, smile sardonically because you know he is only throwing abuses at your physical body, and not on your *atma*; Fourth, be happy, for this body is only temporary and *jivatma* will attain *paramatma* and render service to Him. Finally, thank the abuser for he has done you a service: his criticism will impel one to introspect on one's faults.

INBRIEF

SEBI nixes 1% security deposit mandate in public issues

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday abolished the requirement of a mandatory security deposit with the exchanges before a public issue, in a bid to facilitate ease of doing business for issuer companies. The move will be applicable with immediate effect, SEBI said in a circular. Before this, any company that is looking to launch a public issue of equity shares has to deposit with the stock exchanges an amount equal to 1% of the issue size. PTI

NTPC Green Energy IPO gets subscribed 93% on Day 2

The initial public offer of NTPC Green Energy Ltd., the renewable energy arm of NTPC, got subscribed 93% on Thursday, the second day of bidding. The share sale received bids for 54,96,35,370 shares against 59,31,67,575 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The category for retail individual investors (RIIs) attracted 2.38 times subscription while qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 75%. Non-institutional investors received 34% subscription. PTI

ACC, NLC, others bag 5 coal mines in 10th round of auction

NLC India Ltd., ACC Ltd., and JSW Energy Utkal Ltd. are among the five companies that bagged five mines on the first day of the tenth round of the commercial coal mine auction, according to an official statement issued on Thursday. While ACC Ltd. bagged a coal mine in Madhya Pradesh, NLC India Ltd. and JSW Energy Utkal Ltd. won one block each in Odisha. A total of nine blocks had been put on sale in the tenth round of the coal mine auction. PTI

Adani stocks dive, drag Nifty to fresh five-month low

Tuesday's reprieve for Dalal Street when the Nifty-50 snapped its worst streak in 20 months, was short-lived, as an U.S. Court indicts the Adani group on bribery and securities fraud charges

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Indian stock markets slipped back into the red on Thursday, with the BSE Sensex sliding 0.54% to 77,155.79 points and the broader Nifty-50 hitting a fresh five-month low, after bribery and securities fraud charges figured in a U.S. Court indictment against Adani group promoter Gautam Adani and others.

The group's flagship company Adani Enterprises crashed 23.4% closing at ₹2160 a share. Adani Green Energy, the company named in the New York Eastern district court indictment that was unsealed on November 20, indictment fell 18.95% to ₹1145 a share.

Adani Total Gas dipped 10.4% to ₹602 per share, while Adani Energy Solutions fell 20% and closed at ₹697.25 apiece on the National Stock Exchange. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones plummeted 13.23% to nearly ₹1,119 per stock, and Adani Power Limited stocks fell 9.62% to ₹473 apiece.

The apples to airports conglomerate's consumer goods stock Adani Wilmar also took a beating closing around ₹295 a share, 10% below the previous trading session. The stocks of cement companies acquired by the Adani group, including ACC and Ambuja cements, also felt the pain. ACC Ltd fell 8% closing at ₹2011 and Ambuja Cements Ltd at ₹480 , 12.6% below the previous close.

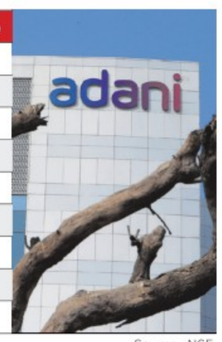
The Nifty-50 fell 0.72% to close at 23,349.9 points, with SBI Life Insurance (-3.15%) and State Bank of India (-2.75%) hit the most after the Adani group flagship and its ports entity.

"Indian stock indices experienced a significant decline today, pressured by bribery charges against Gautam Adani, which further weakened already fragile investor sentiment amid unfavourable global conditions," remarked Devarsh Vakil, HDFC Securities' deputy head of retail research, on the broad-based meltdown.

Tragic Thursday

Adani Group stocks tumbled sharply with flagship firm Adani Enterprises dropping the hardest

Company	Stock price dip
Adani Enterprises	23.44%
Adani Energy Solution	20%
Adani Green	18.95%
Adani Ports and SEZs	13.23%
Ambuja Cements	12.66%
Adani Total Gas	10.38%
Adani Wilmar	10%
Adani Power	9.62%
ACC Cements	7.99%



Source : NSE

Rupee falls 8 paise to all-time low of 84.50 against U.S. dollar

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 8 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.50 against the U.S. dollar on Thursday, dragged down by massive sell-off in domestic equity markets and surging crude oil prices amid a volatile geopolitical situation.

According to forex traders, the continuous outflow of foreign funds also put pressure on the domestic unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.41 and touched the lowest-ever level of 84.51 against the greenback during intra-day trading.

The rupee ended the session at 84.50 against the dollar. On Tuesday, the rupee had settled flat at 84.42 against the U.S. dollar.

Price stability bedrock for sustained growth: Das

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said price stability acts as a bedrock for sustained growth, and the central bank's endeavour is to bring down retail inflation to 4% on a durable basis.

Speaking on 'Balancing Inflation and Growth: The Cardinal Principle of Monetary Policy', he said resilient growth has given the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the space to focus on inflation to ensure its durable descent to the 4% target.

Shaktikanta Das

"A stable inflation or price stability is in the best interest of people and the economy. It acts as a bedrock for sustained growth, enhances the purchasing power of people and provides a stable environment for investment," he said. He was addressing a high-level policy conference of central banks from the Global South here. The Governor said when the RBI took a pause on the policy rate in April 2023 after raising it by 250 basis points, it was important to anchor market expectations from running ahead or front running the central bank. It was, therefore, emphasised that it was a pause and not a pivot. This was to ensure that past rate actions were transmitted fully to the broader economy, he said.

The focus was on anchoring inflation expectations by emphasising our firm commitment to realign inflation with the target, he said. "We also categorically said that it is not enough to be within the tolerance band and that our job is not finished until we reach the target of 4% on a durable basis," the Governor added.

Mr. Das further said that while the global economy has managed to hold its ground in the highly stormy weather of the last few years, there are clouds of uncertainties that still loom on the horizon.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,156	-0.54
US Dollar	84.50	-0.09
Gold	79,300	1.79
Brent oil	73.85	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2183.65	-637.85
Adani Ports	1114.65	-175.00
Apollo Hosp	6742.50	55.60
Asian Paints	2428.15	-55.55
Axis Bank	1139.15	5.20
Bajaj Auto	9505.00	-40.70
Bajaj Finserv	1569.25	-27.10
Bajaj Finance	6465.65	-129.65
Bharat Elec	275.45	-3.55
Bharti Airtel	1525.15	-0.35
BPCL	282.40	-5.10
Britannia Ind	4803.35	-89.35
Cipla	1465.50	-6.05
Coal India	406.00	-6.25
Dr Reddys Lab	1195.35	-18.10
Eicher Motors	4882.10	-83.35
Grasim Ind	2534.85	26.70
HCL Tech	1836.35	15.80
HDFC Bank	1741.20	-1.05
HDFC Life	674.40	-6.00
Hero MotoCorp	4767.85	-7.95
Hindalco	648.05	8.05
Hind Unilever	2382.80	-27.55
ICICI Bank	1250.55	1.45
IndusInd Bank	981.45	-18.75
Infosys	1834.05	9.30
ITC	457.15	-10.20
JSW Steel	944.15	-3.15
Kotak Bank	1737.10	9.35
L&T	3483.50	-22.40
M&M	2936.25	-12.70
Maruti Suzuki	10861.45	-97.85
NestleIndia	2211.20	-2.95
NTPC	356.15	-10.55
ONGC	242.15	-5.85
PowerGrid Corp	325.90	10.85
Reliance Ind	1223.00	-18.65
SBI Life	1477.95	-44.95
State Bank	780.75	-22.25
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2802.20	-22.55
Sun Pharma	1780.00	2.75
TataConsumerProduct	911.70	-5.45
Tata Motors	773.85	-9.35
Tata Steel	140.22	0.76
TCS	4072.85	33.30
Tech Mahindra	1702.25	2.60
Titan	3178.45	-46.25
Trent Ltd.	6460.45	36.60
UltraTech Cement	10954.85	185.30
Wipro	557.15	-4.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.29	84.61
Euro	88.65	88.99
British Pound	106.49	106.91
Japanese Yen (100)	54.60	54.81
Chinese Yuan	11.64	11.69
Swiss Franc	95.37	95.73
Singapore Dollar	62.69	62.94
Canadian Dollar	60.33	60.58
Malaysian Ringitt	18.87	18.97

Source:Indian Bank

CEA Nageswaran asks India Inc. not to seek protective cover of weak currency

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday advised Indian industry not to seek protective cover of weak currency as it is not a substitute for productivity and investment in research and development.

A weak currency can be good for exporters, making their products relatively less expensive for buyers abroad. Mr. Nageswaran further said the reliance on weak currency should not be instrumental to boosting exports, "if anything, it should be part of the policy arsenal to be deployed contextually, but not as a substitute for productivity, investment in R&D and quality, but as a complement at best".

Anantha Nageswaran

"We should not be thinking about in terms of the transformation of competitiveness, which is to continuously expect the weak currency to bail us," he said at an event organised by the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID).

Noting that China relied on weaker currency but it was guided by domestic productivity leaps in the first decade and also in the last decade of the new millennium. "In many other developing countries, including India, weak exchange rate actually has become a protective cover for lack of productivity. "It was used to hide our inefficiencies. That should not be the case," he said.

He pointed out that China's exchange rate policy accentuated the competitiveness that its domestic productivity gains were already conferring on its exports.

"But, we usually in the past has tended to shield, take cover behind the weaker exchange rate," the CEA said, adding that it should not continue.

Mr. Nageswaran said many countries now focusing on exchange rates as a tool of industrial policy, so there will be reactions and counter-reactions.

Observing that the world has already entered the era of de-globalisation, he said, "The reliance on global GDP growth and global export growth, driving our export growth... is not going to happen".

So, it is important for corporates to invest in human capital, he said.

While noting that the annual average economic growth of India between 2013-14 to 2023-24 was 5.9%, he said, "Industrial transition is necessary for us to get back to high growth rate".

Telecom surprise: BSNL gains, private telcos lose one crore subscribers this September

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Private telcos Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea cumulatively lost over one crore wireless subscribers in September, even as state-owned BSNL surprised with net adds of almost 8.5 lakh mobile users, as per monthly data released by TRAI.

Reliance Jio lost 79.69 lakh mobile subscribers in September compared to the previous month, Bharti Airtel (14.34 lakh users), and Vodafone Idea (15.53 lakh users).

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) added 8.49 lakh users to its wireless subscriber tally.

The wireless subscriber base of Reliance Jio stood at 46.37 crore in September, while that of Bharti Airtel was 38.34 crore.

The wireless user base of Vodafone Idea was 21.24 crore as of September 2024. BSNL's gains in September pushed its subscriber tally to 9.18 crore.

It is pertinent to mention that the three private telcos had hiked mobile tariffs by 10-27% in July.

'No tariff rise'

BSNL, however, refrained from following in the footsteps of its larger rivals, and its Chairman and Managing Director Robert Ravi recently ruled out an increase in tariffs, in the near future.

"We can clearly say we are not going to increase our tariffs in the near future," Mr. Ravi had told reporters in October.

Natco submits ANDA for Risdiplam for Oral Solution

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Natco Pharma has submitted abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for Risdiplam for Oral Solution, a generic version of Genentech Inc's spinal muscular atrophy drug Evrysdi.

Natco said it believes it is among one of the first two companies to have filed a substantially-complete ANDA containing a paragraph IV certification for the product, and thus expects to be eligible for 180 days of shared marketing exclusivity at the time of potential launch of the generic product under certain circumstances.

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Ph:04324-277001 (10 Lines).

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
242513 004559	Bed Evaporator Tube Studded - Boiler #6	04.12.24
242523 002855	Design, Manufacturing, Testing and Supply of 11kV Switch gears for TM#5 in TNPL Unit-1.	16.12.24
E-mail	242513004559 - purchase.enggspares@tnpl.co.in 242523002855 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/5063/Tender/2024 — *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

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CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

Request for Proposals

e-Tender-cum-e-Reverse Auction No.: **WBSEDCL/PT&P/e-NIT/05/2024**, **Date: 22.11.2024** is invited by the **Chief Engineer (PT&P)**, **WBSEDCL**, Vidyut Bhavan, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091, for purchase of power on Short-Term basis for the periods from **01.04.2025** to **30.06.2025** and from **01.04.2026** to **30.06.2026** through Traders/Licensees/Bidders. Interested parties may download the tender documents from the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** directly with the help of DSC from **11:00 hrs.** of **22.11.2024** and submit the same on or before **17:00 hrs.** of **28.11.2024**.
For details, visit **www.wbsedcl.in** — ICA- T20885(3)/2024

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LTD.
NOTICE INVITING BIDS No. 12 & 13 (2024-25)

RVPN invites competitive BIDS for following Civil works from experienced, reputed contractors registered in appropriate class with RRVPNL & A or AA class in Central/ State Government Department and their undertakings and registered in GST department. The Tender/bid shall only be submitted through online tendering system of **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. The interested bidders shall have to be enrolled/ registered with portal of **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for participating in the bidding process. S. No. 01 to 01 (NIB No. 12 (2024-25) & 01 to 12 (NIB No. 13 (2024-25)
UBN No. (VPN2425WSOB02032) to (VPN2425WSOB02035), (VPN2425WSOB02042) to (VPN2425WSOB02043), (VPN2425WSOB02045) to (VPN2425WSOB02048), (VPN2425WSOB02057) to (VPN2425WSOB02059).
Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/24/8079 — RRVPN/TR-6474/2024 — (CIVIL), Jodhpur

E-mail :- cenh.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Office of the Chief Engineer (NH) PWD Rajasthan
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Civil Lines, Jaipur
Phone :- 01412954570
File No-138 — Date- 14/11/2024
SHORT TERM NIB NO: 3/2024-25
RFP for Procurement of **Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report of 4/6 Lane Green Field Expressways in the State of Rajasthan (Package no 4: Beawar - Bharatpur Expressway)"** are invited from interested agencies upto 03:00 PM on 03.12.2024. Other particulars of RFP may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/) of the state and department website www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate total value of the procurement is Rs. 426.43 Lakh.
UBN: PWD2425SLOB09743
(Satish Chand Agrawal)
Chief Engineer (NH)
DIPR/C/11339/2024 — **PWD, Rajasthan**

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of Work	Due Date
242523 002907	Procurement of Debarked Eucalyptus pulpwood from open market sources of Karnataka to TNPL Unit-II, Mondipatti, Trichy dist.	27.11.24

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com**
DIPR/5064/Tender/2024 — *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e - TENDER NOTICE
The TGTransco invites online Bids under e-procurement for supply of the following Equipment.

Sl.No.	Tender Specification No.	Description of Equipment
1.	TGPMM41-27/2024	33kV CTs (2000-1000-600-400/1-1-1)A
2.	TGPMM41-28/2024	33kV CTs (600-400/1-1)A
3.	TGPMM41-29/2024	33kV CTs (400-200/1-1)A
4.	TGPMM41-30/2024	33kV Pts

Bidders can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement platform@ www.tender.telangana.gov.in (Telangana State).
Contact Nos.: **CHIEF ENGINEER/P&MM, TGTransco, Phone: 040-23396000 (Extn.:3670/3583/3276/3522)** 040-23303736, www.tgtransco.com
Sd/-
DIPR R.O. No. : 678-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 — **Chief Engineer/P&MM**

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NIB. NO. RSGSM/Old Glass Bottle/RC/2024-25/Pur/ — Dated :- 20/11/2024
NOTICE INVITING BID
पुराने ग्लास निप्स (180 मिली) और बोतल और (750 मिली) के लिए इच्छुक बोली दाताओं से 11/12/2024 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक बोलियां आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। बोली के अन्य विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) और विभागीय वेबसाइट **http://rajexcise.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
UBN: GSM2425GLRC00063
Raj.Samwad/C/24/8108 — **Dy. General Manager (Purchase)**

भारत सरकार /Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/ Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
[वि.अ.आयोगअधिनियम 1956 कीधारा 3 केअधीनमानितविश्वविद्यालयघोषित]
[Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act 1956]
वलियमला पोस्ट/ Valiamala PO,तिरुवनंतपुरम/ Thiruvananthapuram -695 547
दूरभाष/Phone: 0471-2568603, फैक्स/Fax: 0471-2568602, ई-मेल/E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in
संविदा पदों के लिए प्रवेश साक्षात्कार
WALK- IN-INTERVIEW FOR CONTRACT POSITIONS
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) संविदा के आधार पर निम्नलिखित पदों को भरने हेतु आईआईएसटी, वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम में प्रवेश साक्षात्कार का आयोजन करता है।
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) conducts walk-in interview for the following contract positions at IIST Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram:

संविदा पदों का नाम Name of Contract Position	प्रवेश साक्षात्कार की तारीख Date of Walk-in-Interview	रिपोर्टिंग का समय Reporting Time
चिकित्सा अधिकारी Medical Officer	27.11.2024	1300 HRS
स्थानन अधिकारी Placement officer	28.11.2024	0900 HRS

शैक्षिक योग्यता, आयु सीमा, अनुभव, रिपोर्टिंग का समय, आदि से संबंधित अधिक जानकारी के लिए तथा आवेदन पत्र डाउनलोड करने के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाईट https://www.iist.ac.in/career/2 देखें।
For more details such as Educational Qualification, Age Limit, Experience, Reporting Time etc., and for downloading application form, please visit our website https://www.iist.ac.in/career/2.
विज्ञापन सं./ Advt. No: IIST/ Admn/RMT/07/03/2024 dated 22.11.2024

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project Division (West), Joint Commissioner (West) Office Premises, 2nd Floor, Sampige Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020
No.: EE/P-W/TEND/12/2024-25 — Date: 20.11.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Tender Notification (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Project (West) Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites short term tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the supply Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Repair of existing building and construction of additional floor to BBMP High School at Maruthi Mandira in Wrad No. 126 (New Ward No. 140) in Govindarajanagar Constituency. **Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 50.00, **EMD (in Rs.):** 50,000/-, **Category:** ST.
2	Demolition and Reconstruction of BBMP Shishuvihara and Primary School at Govindaraja Nagara. **Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 179.68, **EMD (in Rs.):** 2,70,000/-, **Category:** Other.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded through e-portal from: **21.11.2024** form **3:00 p.m.** onwards. **(2)** Pre-bid meeting on: **06.12.2024** at **3:00 P.M.** **(3)** Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **10.12.2024** upto **3:00 P.M.** **(4)** Technical Bid Opening: **11.12.2024** at **3:00 P.M.** **(5)** Financial Bid Opening if possible: **13.12.2024** at **11:00 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project (West), BBMP

GAZA STRIP

Dozens feared dead or missing in Gaza after Israeli air strikes

REUTERS

Dozens of people were killed or unaccounted for after Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip, a hospital director and the civil defence agency said on Thursday. "We can confirm that 22 martyrs were transferred [to a hospital] after a strike targeted a house" in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said. AFP

HONG KONG

Advanced Chinese assault warship docks at Hong Kong Island pier

AFP

Hainan, an advanced Chinese warship thought to play a key role in the country's South China Sea and Taiwan strategies, sailed into Hong Kong on Thursday, part of a publicity campaign showcasing Beijing's increasingly sophisticated military force. The 36,000-tonne vessel was docked at a Hong Kong Island pier on Thursday. AFP

BEIRUT

Israel killed 71 pro-Iran fighters in Syria's Palmyra, says monitor

REUTERS

Israeli strikes killed 71 pro-Iran militants in Syria's Palmyra, with over a third of them identified as fighters from Iraq and Lebanon, a monitor said on Thursday. The strikes targeted three sites in the city renowned for its ancient ruins, including one that hit a meeting of pro-Iranian groups with leaders from Al-Nujaba and Hezbollah. AFP

WASHINGTON

Matt Gaetz drops bid for Trump attorney-general due to opposition

REUTERS

Matt Gaetz, who was nominated by President-elect Donald Trump to be U.S. attorney-general, on Thursday pulled out of the selection process after widespread opposition including from within his Republican Party. "Matt has a wonderful future, and I look forward to watching all of the great things he will do," Mr. Trump said. AFP

ICC issues arrest warrants against Netanyahu, Gallant, Hamas leaders

The Israeli PM and his former Defence Minister face allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity; Netanyahu slams the warrants as 'disgraceful' and 'anti-Semitic'; Joe Biden expresses support for Israel's 'right to defend itself'

Associated Press
THE HAGUE

Serious charges: Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant during a press meet in the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv in 2023. REUTERS

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and Hamas officials, accusing them of war crimes and crimes against humanity over their 13-month war in Gaza and the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, respectively.

Mr. Netanyahu condemned the arrest warrant against him, saying Israel "rejects with disgust the absurd and false actions". In a statement released by his office, he said: "There is nothing more just than the war that Israel has been waging in Gaza."

The decision turns Mr. Netanyahu and the others into internationally wanted suspects and is likely to further isolate them and complicate efforts to negotiate a cease-fire to end the fighting. But its practical implications could be limited since Israel and its major ally, the U.S., are not members of the court and two of the Hamas officials were killed in the conflict.

Mr. Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders have condemned ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan's request for warrants as "disgraceful" and "anti-Semitic". U.S. President Joe Biden blasted the prosecutor and expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas. Hamas also slammed the request.

The three-judge panel issued a unanimous decision to issue warrants for Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Gallant. "The Chamber considered that there are reasonable grounds to believe that both individuals intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, water, and medicine and medical supplies, as well as fuel and electricity," the decision said.

The court also issued a warrant for Mohammed Deif, one of the leaders of Hamas, over the October 2023 attacks that triggered Israel's offensive in Gaza. The ICC chief prosecutor withdrew his request for warrants for two other senior Hamas figures, Yahya Sinwar and Ismail Haniyeh, after they were both killed in the conflict.

U.S. Department of Justice seeks to break up Google

Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO

The 23-page document calls for punishments which include the sale of Chrome web browser. AP

U.S. regulators want a federal judge to break up Google to prevent the company from continuing to squash competition through its dominant search engine after a court found it had maintained an abusive monopoly over the past decade.

The proposed breakup floated in a 23-page document filed late on Wednesday by the U.S. Department of Justice calls for sweeping punishments that would include a sale of Google's industry-leading Chrome web browser and impose restrictions to prevent Android from favouring its own search engine.

A sale of Chrome "will permanently stop Google's control of this critical search access point and allow rival search engines the ability to access the browser that for many users is a gateway to the Internet," Justice Department lawyers argued in their filing.

Although regulators stopped short of demanding Google sell Android too, they asserted the judge should make it clear the company could still be required to divest its smartphone operating system if its oversight committee continues to see evidence of misconduct.

The broad scope of the recommended penalties underscores how severely regulators operating under President Joe Biden's administration believe Google should be punished following an August ruling by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta that branded the company as a monopolist.

The Justice Department decision-makers who will inherit the case after President-elect Donald Trump takes office next year might not be as strident. The Washington D.C. court hearings on Google's punishment are scheduled to begin in April and Judge Mehta is aiming to issue his final decision before Labour Day.

Russia launched an ICBM for the first time: Ukraine

Levelling up: Flashes over the Ukrainian city of Dnipro. Kyiv has accused Russia of launching an ICBM on Thursday. AFP

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine claimed on Thursday that Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) overnight at a city. If confirmed, it would be the first time Moscow has used such a weapon in the war.

Ukraine did not provide any evidence that an ICBM was used in the attack on the central city of Dnipro, apparently armed with conventional warheads.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said a missile used "matches the speed and altitude" of an ICBM.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the country's forces had hit Ukraine with a new mid-range ballistic missile.

Mr. Putin said in a televised address that Russia carried out "testing in combat conditions of one of the newest Russian mid-range missile systems... Our engineers named it Oreshnik," which means hazel tree in Russian.

Gunmen kill at least 14 in Pakistan

Associated Press
PESHAWAR

Gunmen opened fire on passenger vehicles carrying Shia Muslim civilians in restive northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least 14 people and wounding 30 others in one of the deadliest such attacks in recent years in the region.

Children make up 40% of displaced in Myanmar, says UN

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military deposed Aung San Suu Kyi's elected govt. in 2021

Children made up nearly 40% of the more than 3.4 million people in Myanmar displaced by civil war and climate change-driven extreme weather, the UN agency for children said on Thursday.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military deposed Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in 2021 and launched a crackdown that sparked an armed uprising against the junta's rule.

The Southeast Asian nation was also battered by Typhoon Yagi in September, triggering major floods that killed more than 400 people and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes.

"The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar is reaching a critical inflexion point, with escalating conflict and climate shocks putting children and families at unprecedented risk," UNICEF deputy executive director Ted Chaiban said in a statement on Thursday.

"Over 3.4 million people have been displaced across the country, nearly 40% of whom are children."

The junta is battling widespread armed opposition to its 2021 coup, and its soldiers have been accused of bloody rampages and using air and artillery strikes to punish civilian communities.

'Devastating impact'

The fighting, as well as severe climate events like Typhoon Yagi, have had a "devastating impact" on children, Mr. Chaiban said, leaving them displaced, vulnerable to violence and cut off from health care and education.

At least 650 children have been killed or wounded in violence in the country this year.

"The increasing use of deadly weapons in civilian areas, including airstrikes and landmines hitting homes, hospitals, and schools, has severely restricted the already limited safe spaces for children, robbing them of their right to security," he said.

भारत सरकार
अंतरिक्ष विभाग
इसरो नोदन कॉम्प्लेक्स
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह
महेंद्रगिरि पी ओ-627 133
दूरभाष : 04637–28-1672 | 1582 | 3582
फैक्स : 04637 – 281681

इसरो ISRO

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
MAHENDRAGIRI PO - 627 133
Telephone: 04637 – 28-1672 | 1582 | 3582
Fax: 04637 – 281681.

ई-निविदा सूचना / E-TENDER NOTICE
दिनांक/Dated : 19-11-2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा द्वारा मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

क्र. सं. / Sl. No.	कार्य का नाम / Name of Work	प्राक्कलित लागत / Estimated Cost ₹(लाखों में) (in Lakhs)	कार्य पूरा होने की अवधि / Period of completion	ईएमडी / EMD(₹)
1	एनआईटी सं:आईपीआरसी/ सीएमजी/ टीडी/ ई-126/ एमडब्ल्यू-03/2024-25	NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-126/MW-03/2024-25		
	आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि में ईएसएस टंकी भंडारण सुविधा का निर्माण (सिविल, पीएच एवं यांत्रिक द्वार संबंधी कार्य) Construction of ESS tankage storage facility at IPRC, Mahendragiri (Civil, PH & Mech. door works)	958.56	18 (अठारह महीने / Eighteen months)	19,17,200

ऑनलाइन निवेदन करने की तिथि: Dates for Online Request : From 22-11-2024[10:00 hours/ बजे] से To: 06-12-2024[23:30 hours/ बजे] तक।
बोली स्पष्टीकरण / Bid Clarification : From 22-11-2024 (10:10 बजे) hrs से To: 07-12-2024 (23:59 बजे) hrs तक।
नियत समय व प्रस्तुतीकरण की तिथि: Due Date & Time of Submission : 12-12-2024 [14:00 hours/बजे] तक।
अधिक जानकारी के लिए देखें : For further details visit: www.isro.gov.in/tenders (या/or) www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.
नोट : उपर्युक्त कार्य (कार्यों) के लिए भविष्य में सभी पत्राचार (शुद्धिपत्र) केवल उपर्युक्त वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किए जाएंगे।
Note : All future correspondence (Corrigenda) for the above work(s) shall be published only on the websites mentioned above.
समूह निदेशक, सीएमजी, आईपीआरसी / GROUP DIRECTOR, CMG, IPRC

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun
Telephone No. 0135-2762444 Fax No. 0135-2763839, Email ID: cgmupcl@yahoo.co.in
Websites: (www.mstcecommerce.com)

CORRIGENDUM FOR NOTICE INVITING TENDER AGAINST TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 19/CE(COMM)/UPCL-19/LTPP/2024

The slight modification is being made for NIT against tender specification no. 19/CE(COMM)/UPCL-19/LTPP/2024 and date of Pre-Application Conference-1 be read on 15.01.2025 in place of 15.01.2024.
All other terms and condition shall remain unchanged.

No: 632/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2
Date: 21.11.2024
CE (Commercial)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. Use L.E.D Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org (For Information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll free No. 18001804185/ Fax No. 0135-2760911)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-II-17/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below:

2. Nature of work	:	Road works
3. No. of work	:	5 Nos.
4. Tender Paper cost	:	Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor	:	'A' Class / Special Class / Super Class
6. Available of bid document the website	:	From 10.00 A.M. of 28.11.2024 to 5.30 PM of 10.12.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid	:	Dt.11.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha
B-638
OIPR-34172/11/0008/2425

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Science & Technology
Government of India

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · RCB Regional Centre for Biotechnology

AWARD OF DBT – RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIP IN BIOTECHNOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2024 – 2025 / Call II

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the award of "DBT-Research Associateship" for pursuing research in frontier areas of Biotechnology and Life Sciences. The Associateship is tenable in Premier Research Institutions/Universities including non-profit R&D Institutions within India. The Associateships are awarded under the "DBT-Research Associateship" programme supported by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Start Date of Online Application : 22nd November, 2024
End Date of Online Application : 03rd January, 2025 (up to 05:00 PM)

Detailed information on the fellowship grant, eligibility criteria and application process is available at DBT website- www.dbtindia.gov.in and RCB website- www.rcb.res.in. To apply, interested applicants may kindly visit DBT-RA website- https://ra.dbtindia.gov.in/ Or Common Fellowship Portal via https://fellowships.gov.in/

Interested and eligible applicants from the North East Region are also encouraged to apply.

For any queries, please contact DBT-HRD Project & Management Unit, Regional Centre for Biotechnology at ra.dbt@rcb.res.in.

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
CENTRAL STORE & MACHINERY PROJECT, BHUBANESWAR - 751012 (ODISHA)
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO: - 61/OCC/CST-04/works/896/2015(Vol.III), Dated. 19.11.2024

Tenders in conformity with term & conditions are invited from reputed transporters / fleet owners for "Dismantling, loading and transportation of TATA HITACHI CRAWLER CRANE (KH-500) a 100 ton capacity crane from Anandapur Barrage Gate Erection Project, Anandapur in the district of Keonjhar and unloading, assembly along with trial testing and load test at Kanupur Gate Erection Project, Basudevpur, Dist: Keonjhar as per Direction of Engineer-In-Charge." For further details can be seen from our website www.odishaconstruction.com.

The last date and time of submission of tender document is 29.11.2024 at 3.00 P.M and will be opened on same date at 4.00 PM (Bidders are requested to visit above website regularly for any changes, since it will not be published in news paper again.

Sd/- Senior Manager (Mech.)
CAD - 1653
OIPR-34120/11/0025/2425

KEEN EYE

Hope things fall in place for Shami to join the team, says Bumrah

FILE PHOTO

Jasprit Bumrah expressed his delight over Mohammed Shami's recovery process following a corrective surgery. "Shami *bhai* has started to play cricket. He is an integral part of this team. I am sure the management is keeping a keen eye. Hopefully if things fall in place, you might see him here as well," Bumrah said.

HIGH PRAISE

Cummins impressed with the way Nitish goes about his work

GETTY IMAGES

Pat Cummins had some kind words about all-rounder Nitish Reddy. The two turned out for Sunrisers Hyderabad for which Cummins was the skipper. "Loved playing alongside Nitish. He is a great young guy starting out on his professional career. I am impressed with how he went about his work. He can swing the ball a bit," Cummins said.

OUT OF CONTROL

IPL auction not a distraction during the Perth Test: Cummins

AFP

The Indian Premier League's auction at Jeddah on November 24 and 25, drew some attention at Perth on Thursday. Asked if the auction could be a distraction during the first Test involving India and Australia, Pat Cummins said: "I don't think so. Most of the guys have been in auctions before. The reality is you can't really do anything."

GOOD SHOW

Titans get the better of Warriorz; Steelers overcome Bulls

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Telugu Titans scored a 31-29 victory in Match 67 of Pro Kabaddi League at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Thursday. The hero for Titans was Vijay Malik, whose 14 points was crucial as it rode out a late Bengal Warriorz challenge to secure five points. In the second match, Haryana Steelers got the better of Bengaluru Bulls 32-26.

India aims for a hat-trick of triumphs Down Under

Skipper Bumrah has to inspire the pace attack; Padikkal may come into the picture as will all-rounder Nitish for the Perth Test; Australia eyeing a series win after two previous reverses

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PERTH

Two men fused by their passion for speed, split by nationalities, and thrown together into a sporting rivalry, stretched their hands towards each other. In the background, the sun was beating down on the grass, all golden hue and green tinge, and in the shade a cool breeze demanded respect and woollens.

Jasprit Bumrah and Pat Cummins, froze time for a bit, as the two, with a son each, discussed parenthood and baby-steps. This was life distilled into its best essence. As proud fathers, splendid pacers and rival captains, Bumrah and Cummins then posed with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Optus Stadium here on Thursday noon. And it was time to get ready for a long Australian summer that would gain its sporting high from the five Tests pitting India against Cummins and his men.

When the first Test commences on Friday, one of cricket's greatest rivalries will get a fresh chapter. The Ashes and the memories about India-Pakistan Tests linger, but there is no discounting the charms, the adrenaline, and the nail-biting climaxes that seem inevitable when India and Australia face off. India arrives after suffering a 0-3 loss in its backyard against New Zealand but history would whisper about the stunning Test series triumphs Down Under in the 2018-19 and 2020-21 series.

Batting buddies: Padikkal may get a look-in, while Jaiswal could have Rahul for company at the top of the order. GETTY IMAGES

Lively pitch

The surface is expected to offer pace and bounce and it was no surprise when Indian coach Gautam Gambhir sauntered towards the pitch on match-eve and had a long gaze. He has enough to ponder about. Regular skipper Rohit Sharma is on a paternity break; Virat Kohli, a massive hero equally in Australia, is searching for runs; and Shubman Gill with a left-thumb injury, is a doubtful starter.

The batting order has to be tweaked and Devdutt Padikkal may come into the picture with perhaps K.L. Rahul moving atop the batting tree in tandem with Yashasvi Jaiswal. With demand for some batting insurance lower down the order, the team-management may be inclined towards seam-bowling all-rounder Nitish Reddy while Washington Sundar is an option.

An Australian line-up with its penchant for left-handed batters could also bring R. Ashwin as the counter-point. Bumrah, with Mohammed Siraj for support, has to inspire a seemingly under-cooked pace attack.

Clear threat

Australia, meanwhile, is itching to wrest back a trophy that has gone missing from its cupboard after the triumphant 2014-15 series. Cummins with fellow speedsters Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood are a clear threat and while the batting-order will miss David Warner, there is enough experience thanks to the trio of Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne.

The last time India and Australia were locked in a five-Test duel in 1991-92, Allan Border's men won at 4-0. The only link with those days is current Aussie star Mitchell Marsh, whose father Geoff played back then, and the latter's rivals, Indian selector Subroto Banerjee and Ravi Shastri, back here as a commentator. Since that time much water has flown down Perth's Swan River while India chases fresh ripples in its fortunes.

The teams (from):
Australia: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Usman Khawaja, Travis Head, Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Josh Inglis (wicket-keeper), Alex Carey (wicket-keeper), Mitchell Marsh, Nathan McSweeney, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Scott Boland and Nathan Lyon.
India: Jasprit Bumrah (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, Shubman Gill, K.L. Rahul, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dhruv Jurel (wicket-keeper), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Nitish Reddy, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana.
Match officials: Umpires: Richard Kettleborough and Christopher Gaffaney; **Third umpire:** Richard Illingworth; **Match referee:** Ranjan Madugalle.
Match starts at 7.50 a.m. IST.

Battle for Lord's

WITH A WTC FINAL SPOT AT STAKE, AUSTRALIA AND INDIA — THE TOP TWO IN THE TABLE — GET READY FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN ENTHRALLING SHOWDOWN

FORM GUIDE
(last five matches, latest game first)

INDIA	L	L	L	W	W
AUSTRALIA	W	W	L	W	W

The Australia-India Test series is being played for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) since 1996-97

- India and Australia had met in 50 Tests (India won 8, Australia 24, Tied 1, Drawn 17) before BGT
- The two teams also faced off in the WTC final in 2023 which the Aussies won

SEASON-BY-SEASON

	Host	Winner	Result
1996-97	India	India	1-0 (1)
1997-98	India	India	2-1 (3)
1999-00	Australia	Australia	3-0 (3)
2000-01	India	India	2-1 (3)
2003-04*	Australia	Drawn	1-1 (4)
2004-05	India	Australia	2-1 (4)
2007-08	Australia	Australia	2-1 (4)
2008-09	India	India	2-0 (4)
2010-11	India	India	2-0 (2)
2011-12	Australia	Australia	4-0 (4)
2012-13	India	India	4-0 (4)
2014-15	Australia	Australia	2-0 (4)
2016-17	India	India	2-1 (4)
2018-19	Australia	India	2-1 (4)
2020-21	Australia	India	2-1 (4)
2022-23	India	India	2-1 (4)

*India retained the trophy

H2H IN BGT

	Tests	Ind	Aus	Drawn
Overall	56	24	20	12
In Australia	27	6	14	7

THE BGT CHART

Overall	BATTING	In Australia*
Tendulkar (3262, 65 inns)	Most runs	**For India:** Kohli (1352, 25 inns) **For Australia:** Smith (1082, 16 inns)
Clarke (329 n.o., Sydney, 2012)	Highest	Kohli (169, Melbourne, 2014) Smith (192, Melbourne, 2014)
Tendulkar (9)	Most 100s	Kohli (6); Smith (5)
	BOWLING	
Lyon (116, 47 inns)	Most wickets	**For India:** Ashwin (39, 18 inns) **For Australia:** Lyon (60, 28 inns)
Lyon (8/50, Bengaluru, 2017)	Best bowling (innings)	Bumrah (6/33, Melbourne, 2018) Lyon (7/152, Adelaide, 2014)
Kumble (10)	Most five-fors	Bumrah and Siraj (one each) Lyon (4)

**Players from the current squads*

13 Dhoni's matches as captain in BGT — a record. He won eight, lost four and drew the other

32 Harbhajan's bag of wickets in 2000-01, a series high

34 Tendulkar's BGT appearances, the most by a player

769 Smith's run tally in 2014-15, the best in a series

WTC STANDINGS

		P	W	L	D	DED*	PTS	PCT
1	Australia	12	8	3	1	10	90	62.50
2	India	14	8	5	1	2	98	58.33
3	Sri Lanka	9	5	4	0	0	60	55.56
4	New Zealand	11	6	5	0	0	72	54.55
5	South Africa	8	4	3	1	0	52	54.17
6	England	19	9	9	1	19	93	40.79
7	Pakistan	10	4	6	0	8	40	33.33
8	Bangladesh	10	3	7	0	3	33	27.50
9	West Indies	9	1	6	2	0	20	18.52

**Deductions: Points are deducted for slow over rates*

Points system: 12 for a win, 6 for a tie, 4 for a draw

- The teams are ranked according to the percentage of points won and the top two progress to the final at Lord's in 2025

THE DATES

First Test: November 22-26, **Perth**, 7.50 a.m.
Second Test: December 6-10 (Day-Night), **Adelaide**, 9.30 a.m.
Third Test: December 14-18, **Brisbane**, 5.50 a.m.
Fourth Test: December 26-30, **Melbourne**, 5 a.m.
Fifth Test: January 3-7, **Sydney**, 5 a.m. ALL TIMES IST

This will be India's final series in the current cycle while Australia will play two more Tests (Jan. 29-Feb. 2; Feb. 6-10) in Sri Lanka

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

We are not carrying any baggage from New Zealand series: Bumrah

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PERTH

Thunderbolts on the field, measured words off it, seem to be Jasprit Bumrah's philosophy.

The Indian captain presented an optimistic view about his men's prospects in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series commencing at the Optus Stadium here on Friday.

Speaking to sports correspondents on Thursday, Bumrah said: "We are very well prepared. We came here early, got some time at the WACA Ground, and a lot of the youngsters are coming here for the first time. When we came here for the first time as well, we got less time than this, and we still ended up winning the series."

Slipping into the captain's boots due to Rohit Sharma's absence from the first Test, Bumrah is ready for the challenge.

All set: Bumrah is ready for the captaincy challenge. AFP

"I love the responsibility. I wanted to do the tough job ever since I was a child. Always wanted to be in the thick of things. I have a lot of faith in my instincts and gut.

"As for fast-bowling captains, Pat (Cummins) has done a phenomenal job, in the past for India, Kapil Dev did a fabulous job."

Asked if he faces the conundrum of bowling captains, either under-bowling or over-bowling himself, Bumrah replied: "I look at it in a different manner. I can manage myself the best when I am the captain, because I know when I am fresh, when I know I have to push myself, and I know when I have to take extra responsibility.

Research

"Obviously bowlers do a lot more research, and are data-driven as well, more than batters, because that's how the game is headed."

More importantly, Bumrah stressed that the 0-3 loss in the Tests against New Zealand has been put behind. "Yes, we were disappointed but we are not carrying any baggage, we come here with a fresh mindset against a different opposition."

Cummins hopes Australia can wrest back the coveted trophy

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PERTH

There is a quiet confidence innate to Pat Cummins. Striding into the press conference hall wearing his worn-out baggy green cap at the Optus Stadium here on Thursday, the Australian skipper hoped that his men would wrest back the elusive Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

There were also moments when the brotherhood of fast bowlers was on view as he praised his counterpart Jasprit Bumrah. Ahead of the first Test against India here from Friday, Cummins extensively spoke to the media.

Excerpts...

The trophy that matters

"For about half in the change room, we haven't won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, so it's one of the last things to tick off.

Two of a kind: Cummins is excited to see fellow pacer Bumrah at the helm of the Indian team. AFP

"With every challenge that was thrown at us over the last few years we have stepped up and done well. We know India is right up there with one of the best teams in the world, so we are excited."

Fast bowling captains

"Yeah, it is great to see and should happen more. In the New Zealand series last year, it was good with Tim Southee as captain. I don't think it really changes too much again, but it's one of those rare things. So, yeah, looking forward to seeing how he (Bumrah) goes about his work out there. As a fan of fast bowling, it's always good to see."

Planning

"We make plans for a whole squad. India has got a lot of depth. Most of us have played the IPL and seen how newcomers step up straight away.

"They are missing a couple of guys we are more familiar with, but we know whoever they pick is going to be good enough for Test cricket."

Surface-tension

"The pitch looks good with an even coverage of grass. You know, it always looks really good here."

INBRIEF

Double Olympic triathlon champion Alistair retires

Double Olympic champion Alistair Brownlee of England announced his retirement from triathlon at the age of 36 on Thursday. Brownlee won gold medals in London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016, with his younger brother, Jonny, making the podium on both occasions. He was also world champion in 2009 and 2011, and a four-time European champion.

Lakshya sails into the quarterfinals, Sindhu exits

Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarterfinals with a straight-game win, but P.V. Sindhu's campaign ended in the second round of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament in Shenzhen on Thursday.

The results: **Second round**: **Men**: Lakshya Sen bt Rasmus Gemke (Den) 21-6, 21-18; **Doubles**: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Rasmus Kjaer & Frederik Soggard (Den) 21-19, 21-15.
Women: Yeo Jia Min (Sgp) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-16, 17-21, 21-23; Natsuki Nidaira (Jpn) bt Anupama Upadhyaya 21-7, 21-14; Supanida Katethong (Tha) bt Malvika Bansod 21-9, 21-9; **Doubles**: Liu Sheng Shu & Tan Ning (Chn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopi Chand 21-16, 21-11.

Vaidehi knocks out third seed Jia-Jing Lu in Caloundra event

Qualifier Vaidehi Chaudhari beat third seed Jia-Jing Lu of China 6-1, 6-2 in the first round of the $40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Caloundra, Australia, on Thursday. Vaidehi also made the quarterfinals in partnership with Shrivalli Bhamidipaty.

The results: $82,000 Challenger, Yokohama: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Benjamin Hassan (Lbn) & Saketh Myneni bt Ryuki Matsuda & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF men, Luanda: Pre-quarterfinals: Gregor Ramskogler (Aut) bt Parth Aggarwal 6-3, 6-2; Robert Strombachs (Ger) bt Yash Yadav 6-0, 6-0; First round: Chirag Duhan bt lUke Cripps (Aus) 6-7(5), 2-0 (retired); Victor Pagotto (Bra) bt Rishabdev Raman 6-4, 6-4; Yash Yadav bt Breno Braga (Bra) 6-3, 5-7, 7-5; Parth Aggarwal bt Patrik Oplustil (Cze) 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.
$40,000 ITF women, Caloundra: First round: Choi Onyu (Kor) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Jia-Jing Lu (Chn) 6-1, 6-2; Ankita Raina bt Lily Taylor (Aus) 6-3, 6-3. **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Shrivalli & Vaidehi bt Gabriella Da Silva Fick & Alana Parnaby (Aus) 6-4, 7-6(3).
$25,000 ITF women, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Second round: Victoria Rodriguez (Mex) bt Saumya Vig 6-0, 6-0.
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Pre-quarterfinals: Mathilde Lollia (Fra) bt Zeel Desai 6-3, 6-3.

Bihar to host Khelo India Youth Games in April, 2025

After successfully conducting the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament at Rajgir, Bihar will host the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in April, 2025. The Khelo India Para Games (KIPG), which was organised for the first time in New Delhi last year, will also be held in the same State. There will be a gap of 10 to 15 days between KIYG and KIPG.

Kosovo forfeits Nations League fixture against Romania

UEFA ruled on Wednesday that Kosovo had forfeited in Nations League game in Romania by leaving the pitch in stoppage time and not returning, after hearing pro-Serbia chants. UEFA deemed the Kosovo football federation "responsible for the match not being played in full" and said the team would forfeit it 3-0.

Leicester winger Fatawu to miss rest of the season

Leicester winger Abdul Fatawu will miss the rest of the season because of an ACL injury, manager Steve Cooper said on Thursday. The 20-year-old Fatawu was injured while playing for Ghana in an Africa Cup of Nations Qualifier against Angola on Friday. He recently broke into the team at Leicester, which was promoted back to the English Premier League this season.

India will need to drastically improve its shooting when it takes on Qatar

The hosts will be boosted by the return of Amjyot, while the visitors are in good form after finishing second in the King Abdullah II International Cup

BASKETBALL

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Qatar is grooming its team for the future with an eye on the 2027 World Cup, which it will be hosting. Having a host of players in the U-19 age category, Qatar, under new coach Hakan Demir, may be short of experience, but it does possess hoopsters with rapid speed and exceptional shooting skills.

In his second stint as India's head coach, Scott Flemming has been focusing on shooting, which India failed miserably in crunch situations in the first two matches of the first window of the FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers 2025 when it lost to Kazakhstan and Iran.

Qatar, too, will be under pressure, having lost its first two matches to Iran and Kazakhstan. India will have to improve its defence and, most importantly, shooting, when it takes on Qatar in a Group-E clash in the second window of the qualifiers at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

Prep time: The Indian men's basketball coach Flemming with his wards at a practice session. R. RAVINDRAN

Flemming has been with the boys since July, getting them to improve their shooting.

"We've really worked on our perimeter shooting. But if we shoot like I know we're capable of, I think that'll be our strength. And we've got a couple of veterans, big men, who can do that," said the 66-year-old American.

Qatar is in good form, having finished second in the King Abdullah II International basketball cup held in Amman (Jordan) a few days back.

Twenty-one-year-old Indian point guard Pranav Prince said India is ready for the challenge.

Quite close

"The first half against Iran and Kazakhstan in the first window were quite close, which means we can compete against any team. We lost because of lack of experience towards the end of the game.

"We will have to win two of the next four matches, including away ties against Qatar and Iran in the third window if we have to qualify for the finals in Saudi Arabia next year," he said.

India, with quite a few experienced players, will be bolstered by the return of 32-year-old forward Amjyot Singh, who is coming back from a foot surgery.

Italy regains Billie Jean King Cup

Agence France-Presse
MALAGA

Italy won the Billie Jean King Cup for the fifth time as Jasmine Paolini beat Rebecca Sramkova to secure a dominant 2-0 win over Slovakia on Wednesday.

World No. 4 Paolini triumphed 6-2, 6-1 in the second singles rubber to follow up Lucia Bronzetti's 6-2, 6-4 victory against Viktoria Hruncakova. The victory capped a stunning year for Paolini who finished as runner-up at Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

Italy, the runner-up to Canada in last year's final, became the 'world champion' for the first time since 2013.

Slovakia, which won the competition in 2002, had never lost a BJK Cup tie in Spain.

The underdogs defeated USA, Australia and Great Britain on a stunning run to this year's final.

Italy, captained by Tathiana Garbin, defeated Iga Swiatek's Poland as well as Japan at the finals on the way to winning the tournament dubbed the 'World Cup of Tennis'.

Top of the world: The victorious Italian squad with its big prize. GETTY IMAGES

Australia beats USA, enters the semifinals

DAVIS CUP

Agence France-Presse
MALAGA

Australia defeated record 32-time Davis Cup winner the United States 2-1 to reach the semifinals here on Thursday.

World No. 4 Taylor Fritz had pulled the US level in the tie by beating Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4 in the second singles rubber before Matthew Ebden and Jordan Thompson scored a 6-4, 6-4 win over Ben Shelton and Tommy Paul. In the opening clash Australia's Thanasi Kokkinakis edged Shelton 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (16/14) with a gripping tiebreak triumph.

The match-up was the most played in Davis Cup history with this their 48th meeting, with the first back in 1905. Australia, which has lifted the trophy 28 times, last won the tournament in 2003 and finished as runner-up in the last two editions.

Former Pakistan cricketer Muhammad Nazir Jr. passes away

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

Former Pakistan cricketer and umpire Muhammad Nazir Junior passed away in Lahore on Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 78.

Nazir, who had given some torrid time to West Indian legend Viv Richards with his off-spin, was bedridden for the last few months, Noman Nazir, his son, confirmed.

Nazir, who bagged over 800 First Class wickets, played 14 Tests, including a series against India, and four ODIs before taking up umpiring.

He officiated in five Tests and 15 ODIs.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: China Masters, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 7.30 a.m.
Australia vs India: 1st Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 7.50 a.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV 1 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

KARNATAKA ROUND UP

Not much sweat: Bobrov took out Prajwal in the second round. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka gains an overall lead of 139 runs

BENGALURU: Karnataka mounted a comeback after being bundled out for 99 on the second day of its Cooch Behar Trophy under-19 match against Chandigarh at Chandigarh on Thursday. Asked to follow on, Karnataka reached 312 for eight in the second essay to gain an overall lead of 139 runs.

The scores: Chandigarh 272 vs Karnataka 99 in 36 overs (M. Shivanand 30 n.o., Girish Khatri 5/38, Vashisht 3/31) and 312/8 in 70 overs (M. Shivanand 65, S. Akhil 26, Dheeraj Gowda 75, K.P. Karthikeya 41, Hardik Raj 43 n.o., M. Panchal 4/52).

Big win for Karnataka

Karnataka whipped Tripura by nine wickets in the BCCI under-15 girls' one-day trophy match at Dehradun.

The scores: Tripura 63 in 26 overs (Liyanka Shetty 3/16) lost to Karnataka 64/1 in 12.4 overs (Rohini Dechamma 30, Liyanka Shetty 26).

Merchants (1), YFA in final

Merchants CC (1) will face YFA SC in the final of the KSCA Y.S. Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy.

The scores: Semifinals: Sparton 156 in 29.3 overs (Sagar 56, Virender 38, Vinod 3/32, Satish 3/24) lost to Merchants (1) 157/4 in 26.2 overs (Raghvendra 33, Vinod Kumar 47, Gautham 52).

Yankees 121 in 39.4 overs (Assad 28, Atheek 27, Ranganath 3/26, Sharan 4/30) lost to YFA 125/5 in 21.1 overs (Venkat Raju 25, Prathamesh 41).

Bobrov defeats Prajwal

KALABURAGI: Russian Bogdan Bobrov defeated Prajwal Dev 6-2, 6-3 in the second round of the men's ITF Kalaburagi Open tennis tournament at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium courts on Thursday.

In another encounter, Karan Singh took out fellow Indian Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-3.

The results (Indians unless mentioned): Second round: Nick Chappell (USA) bt Anthony Susanto (Ina) 6-3, 6-2; Maxim Zhukov (Rus) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-2, 6-1; Dev Javia bt Rifqi Fitriadi (Ina) 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; Bogdan Bobrov (Rus) bt Prajwal Dev 6-2, 6-3; Karan Singh bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-3; Sidharth Rawat bt Adhithya Ganesan (USA) 6-3, 7-6(7-0); Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) bt Dheeraj Kodancha Srinivasan 6-4, 6-0; Aryan Shah bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-3, 6-3.

Verstappen in sight of exclusive club of four-time F1 champions

LAS VEGAS GP

Agence France-Presse
LAS VEGAS

Max Verstappen will become just the sixth man in Formula One history to win four World championship titles if he can see off his friend and rival Lando Norris at the Las Vegas Grand Prix this weekend.

Red Bull's three-time champion, who ended a 10-race winless drought by storming to victory from 17th on the grid in Brazil three weeks ago, needs only to stay ahead of Norris, or keep the McLaren driver out of the top eight finishers, to retain his crown.

The Dutchman, on 393, holds a 62-point lead over Norris, on 331, with 60 more points to be won after the Vegas race.

He knows he has no need to gamble as he seeks to join multiple champions Juan Manuel Fangio (five titles), Alain Prost (four), Michael Schumacher (seven), Sebastian Vettel (four) and Lewis Hamilton (seven).

After a blistering start to the season which saw him win seven of the first 10 races, Verstappen suffered a dip that saw his aggressive racing style called into question.

A return to form in Brazil and the experience of having won on the garish streets of Sin City in the inaugural Las Vegas event last year makes Verstappen a clear favourite to take his fourth title in consecutive years.

Gameplan: Red Bull's Verstappen is likely to play it safe in Vegas to finish ahead of Norris and claim his crown. REUTERS

Here is how Verstappen can be champion
He wins the race
He finishes ahead of Norris
Norris finishes outside the top eight without claiming fastest lap

McLaren, however, seeking a first constructors' title since 1998, will aim to postpone the seemingly inevitable as the F1 circus enters a triple-header finale to the season with races to follow in Qatar and Abu Dhabi on December 1 and 8.

McLaren lead the teams' title race with 593 ahead of Ferrari on 557 and Red Bull on 544.

Norris will have to beat Verstappen and finish in the top eight to keep his challenge alive – but with the constructors' title up for grabs, he will race with clear instructions not to take excessive risks after crashing out last year and flopping in Brazil where he finished sixth after starting from pole in a rain-hit race.

His McLaren team chief Zak Brown urged Norris to push to the limits, but not exceed them this weekend following two flashpoint battles between the pair in Texas and Mexico.

In a close contest, both teams will rely on their second drivers Oscar Piastri of McLaren and Sergio Perez of Red Bull as they attempt to fend off Ferrari's challenge led by Charles Leclerc, who took pole last year and finished second.